

STAR WARS

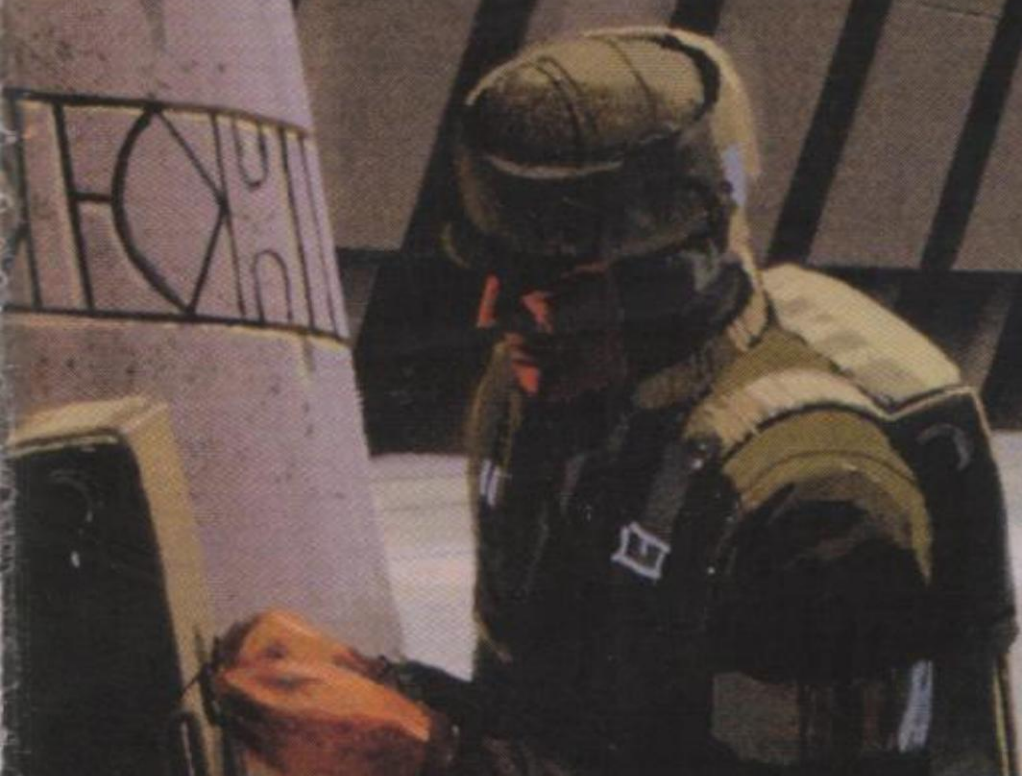
Meet the sworn
enemies of the Jedi!

SECRETS OF THE SITH

Includes
EXCLUSIVE
NEW PHOTOS
from Episode I!
PLUS 17
pull-out
posters!

STAR WARS

SECRETS OF THE SITH



Interior design by Iain Morris

Special thanks for help
with the preparation of this manuscript to
Ben Harper
of Lucas Licensing
and also to
Marc Cerasini

Additional thanks to
Dark Horse Comics, Decipher, Inc., and Virgin Publishing Limited



Previous page: Trapped Dark Jedi
The moon Yavin 4 is host to many Sith mysteries.
This Sith Spirit is trapped within a crystal in the
Temple of the Blueleaf Cluster.

Thanks also to the wonderful people at Lucas
Licensing and Random House Children's Publishing
for their work on this book.

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International and Pan-American Copyright Conventions.
Published in the United States by Random House, Inc.,
New York, and simultaneously in Canada by Random
House of Canada Limited, Toronto. Used under
authorization.

Library of Congress Catalog Card Number: 00-105269
ISBN: 0-375-81042-0
Printed in the United States of America
October 2000
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

First Random House printing, 2000.

www.randomhouse.com/kids
www.starwars.com
www.starwarskids.com

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SITH TIME LINE*

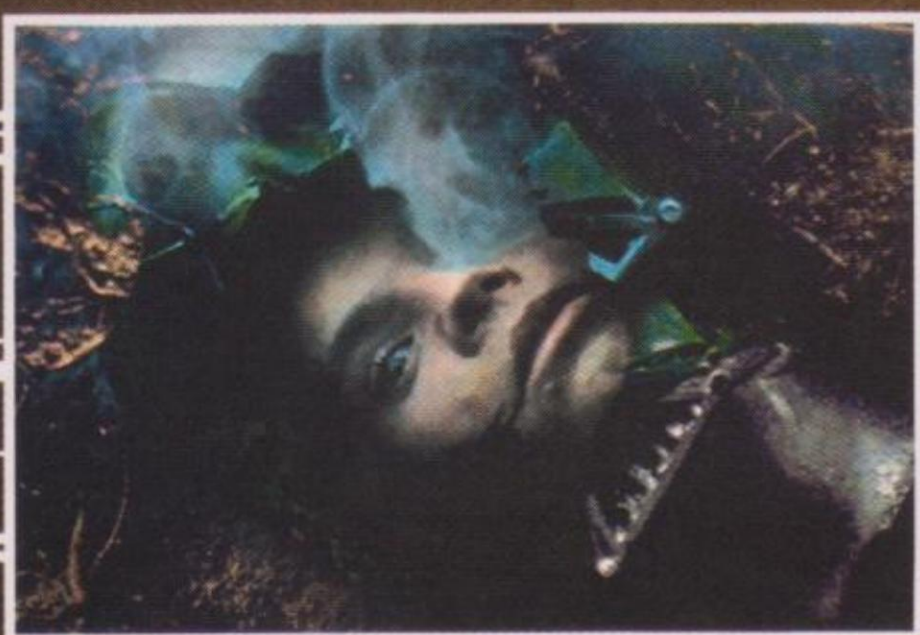
25,000–5,000 B.B.Y.	First uprising of the dark side. After a century-long battle, the dark side practitioners were driven into exile at the edge of the galaxy, where they built a Sith Empire and enjoyed a Sith golden age.	32 years B.B.Y.	Darth Maul makes the Sith known to the Jedi again (SW I); Senator Palpatine becomes Chancellor of the Republic
5,000 years B.B.Y.	The Great Hyperspace War; defeat of Sith Empire	32–0 years B.B.Y.	Jedi Anakin Skywalker becomes Sith Lord Darth Vader
4,400 years B.B.Y.	Jedi Freedon Nadd awakens Sith Lord Naga Sadow's spirit	3–0 years B.B.Y.	Construction of the first Death Star
3,997 years B.B.Y.	Jedi Exar Kun and Jedi Ulic Qel-Droma become Sith Lords	0	Battle of Yavin and destruction of first Death Star (SW IV)
3,996 years B.B.Y.	Sith War	2 years A.B.Y.	Darth Vader discovers the identity of Luke Skywalker
3,986 years B.B.Y.	Redemption of Ulic Qel-Droma	3 years A.B.Y.	Battle of Hoth (SW V)
1,000 years B.B.Y.	Sith Lord Kaan's Battle of Ruusan; Sith Lord Darth Bane's New Sith Order	4 years A.B.Y.	Battle of Endor (SW VI)

*For the purposes of this time line, years are measured Before (B.B.Y.)
and After (A.B.Y.) the Battle of Yavin (destruction of first Death Star,
Episode IV), which is designated Year Zero.

WHEN George Lucas created STAR WARS, the most successful film series of all time, he populated his galaxy with an extraordinary cast of characters.

The remarkable heroes of this saga are much admired. But they are not his only stars.

Mr. Lucas' villains have thrilled fans all over the world. Darth Vader, Darth Sidious, Darth Maul, Emperor Palpatine...these are the shadowy figures who bring the darkness to life. They are the Sith—the ancient enemies of the Jedi.



Face-Off

Jedi apprentice Luke Skywalker confronted the dark side within himself.

Welcome to the DARK SIDE



Darth Sidious



Darth Maul



Emperor Palpatine

WHO are these menacing figures? Where did they come from? What is the philosophy they follow? What is the history of their order? How do they train, and what weapons and vehicles do they use? And what is their ultimate goal?

THESE are the questions this book will begin to answer. So turn the page and enter the dark side...

...if you dare!

FIRST THERE WAS LIGHT—THE JEDI

THE STORY OF THE SITH actually begins with the creation of the Jedi Order. Over 25,000 years before the Battle of Naboo, thinkers of many species and from many worlds came together to study the Force, a powerful energy field that unites everything in the galaxy. These students of the Force called themselves Jedi and began to develop arts, tapping into the Force to see far-off places, move objects with their minds, influence the thoughts of others, and fight with speed and strength.

In time, the Jedi formed an order of knights. Jedi Knights believe their arts should never be used for personal power or wealth, but for knowledge and enlightenment.

BUT EVEN the good can be corrupted. A few Jedi began to manipulate the Force for their own gain—and the Sith were born. As faster-than-light hyperspace travel became widespread, the galaxy's many different star systems formed a democratic union called the Galactic Republic. The Jedi Knights became the guardians of the Republic's peace and freedom, dedicating their lives to protecting the weak. Their compassion, wisdom, and selfless actions helped maintain the stability of the Republic.

Saber Diplomacy

Jedi Master Qui-Gon Jinn and his apprentice, Obi-Wan Kenobi, were sent on many missions to settle conflicts before they caused havoc in the galaxy.



Council of Peace

The Jedi were governed by the Jedi Council, which met atop the Jedi Temple on the Republic's capitol planet, Coruscant. Each of the Council's twelve members was a wise Jedi, strong in the Force. The Council tested and selected Force-sensitive children, who were raised and taught at the temple until they were apprenticed by a Jedi Knight to complete their training.

THE ANCIENT STRUGGLE OF LIGHT SIDE AND DARK SIDE, THE FIRST GREAT SCHISM OF THE JEDI KNIGHTS...

THE DARK JEDI, FINALLY DEFEATED AFTER A CENTURY OF BLOODSHED, TOOK THEIR BATTERED SHIPS INTO EXILE...

...CROSSING THE GALAXY INTO THE UNKNOWN...

THERE THE VANQUISHED DARK JEDI FOUND A PRIMITIVE CIVILIZATION, A NEW PEOPLE TO DOMINATE-- THE SITH!

THE DARK JEDI WERE TREATED AS GODS...

...WITH UNLIMITED RESOURCES AND WILLING SLAVES, THE JEDI EXILES FORGED THE SITH CIVILIZATION INTO A NEW EMPIRE, BRINGING ABOUT A GOLDEN AGE... OF EVIL!

Time line: 25,000-5,000 years B.B.Y.

ALTHOUGH the details are murky, many galactic historians believe that it was one rogue Jedi Knight who first fell to the dark side. Through manipulation, this Jedi was then able to turn many more Jedi—an entire army—to the dark side.

After building a fleet of spacecraft, the dark army declared war on the Jedi Knights. For the next hundred years, war swept the galaxy, destroying worlds and taking the lives of many.

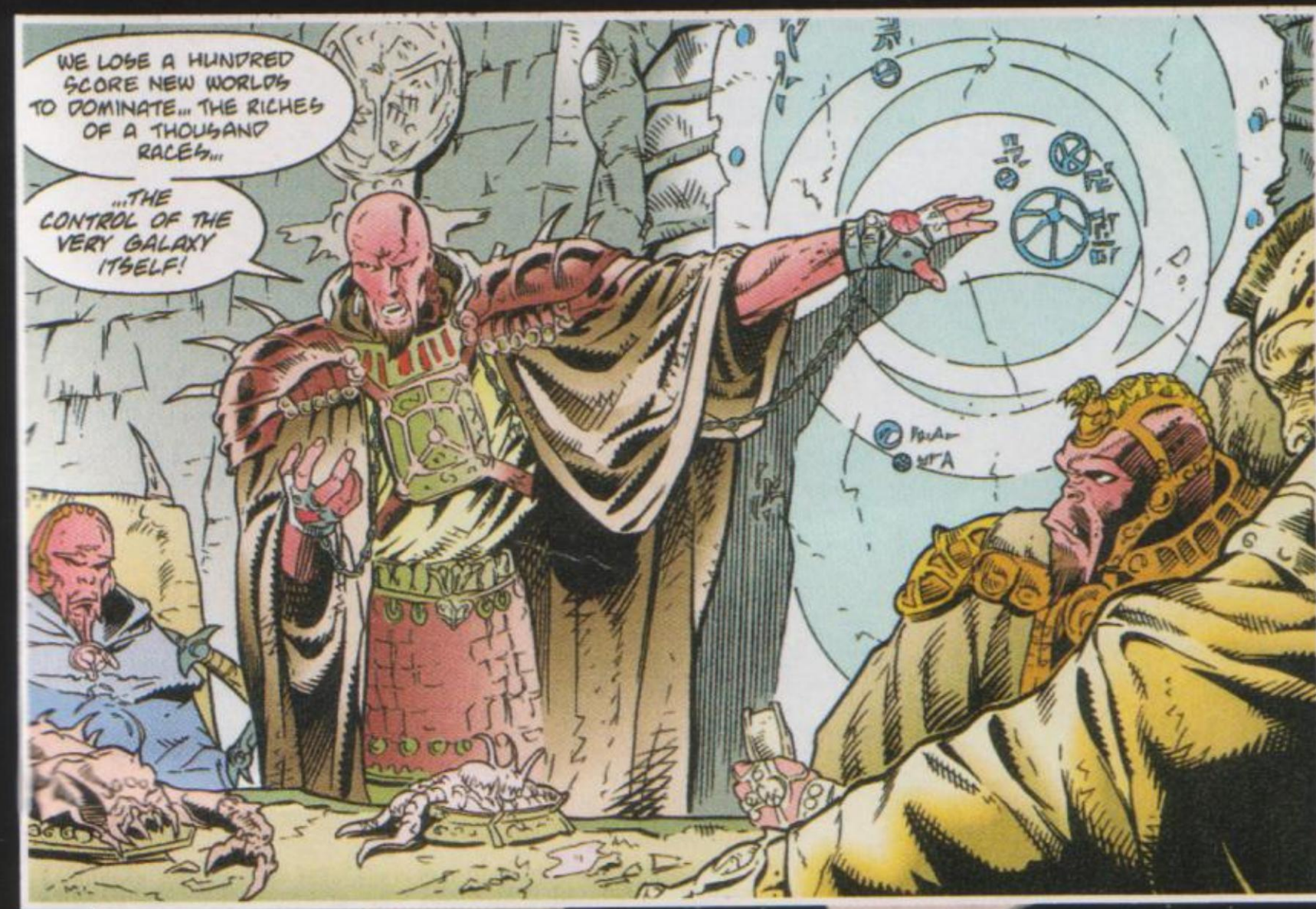
FINALLY, the Jedi battle fleet crushed the evil forces. The few dark Jedi who survived fled into the uncharted reaches of space. In time the Republic grew complacent, certain that the dark Jedi were gone forever.

Why Are They Called the Sith?

When the dark Jedi fled from battle, they landed on an unmapped world. Here they met a race of powerful yet primitive people called the Sith. The dark Jedi seemed like gods to the Sith. For centuries, the dark Jedi ruled, using the Sith people as slaves to help build an evil Empire far from the eyes of the Republic. This was the Sith golden age.

THE DARK JEDI

BUT ON A WORLD far from Republic space, evil thrived and grew. It was here the dark Jedi rebuilt their numbers, perfected their mastery of the Force's dark side, and planned their revenge against the Jedi. The Sith Order was born.

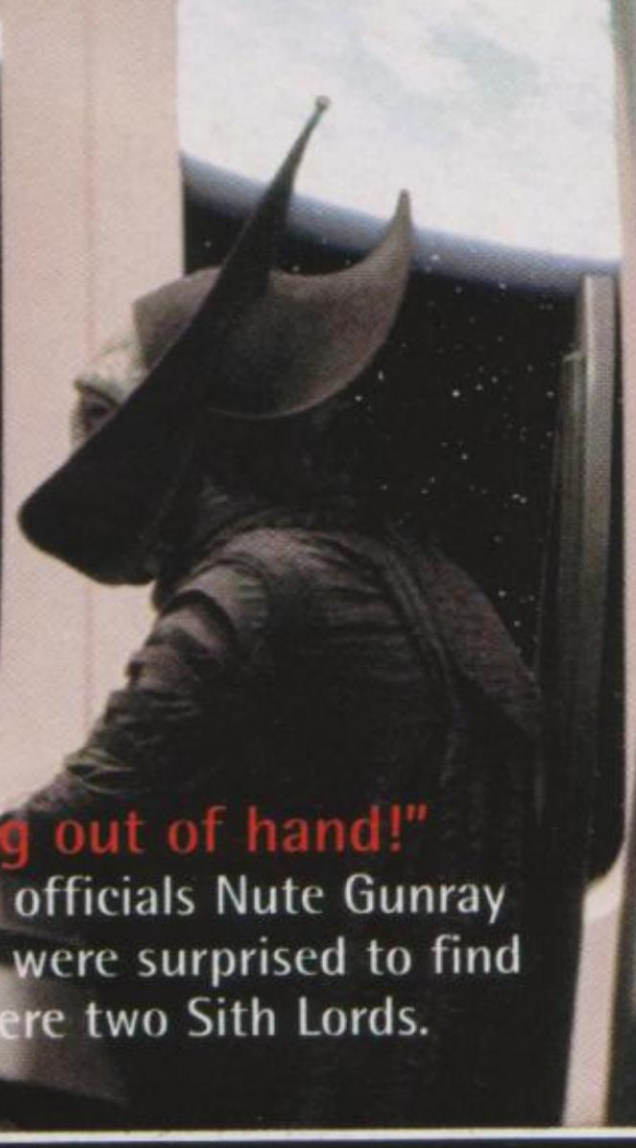


"A Jedi's strength flows from the Force. But beware of the dark side. Anger...fear...aggression. The dark side of the Force are they."

Jedi Master Yoda

Force Philosophy—Light Versus Dark

The Force has a light side and a dark side. The light side represents peace, serenity, knowledge, and goodness. The dark side is filled with fear, anger, and aggression.



"This is getting out of hand!"
Trade Federation officials Nute Gunray and Rune Haako were surprised to find out that there were two Sith Lords.

T H E S I T H W A R S

The Great Hyperspace War

EVENTUALLY, THE REPUBLIC discovered the Sith Empire. Approximately five thousand years before the events of the Battle of Naboo, two Republic hyperspace explorers, Gav and Jori Daragon, were searching for new trade routes when they stumbled upon the flourishing Sith Empire. The Sith immediately arrested them as Republic spies.

An ambitious Sith named Naga Sadow was anxious to conquer the vast Republic. After a Sith tribunal sentenced Gav and Jori to death, Sadow helped Jori escape to get help. Unknown to Jori, Sadow had treacherously placed a homing beacon in her spacecraft. With his Sith battle forces, Sadow followed her back to Republic space and began the Great Hyperspace War.



Gav and Jori Daragon

Daring risk takers, Gav and Jori were brother and sister who were born with Force potential but who chose not to undergo the difficult training to become Jedi. Instead they became hyperspace mappers, navigating the dangerous wilderness beyond Republic space.



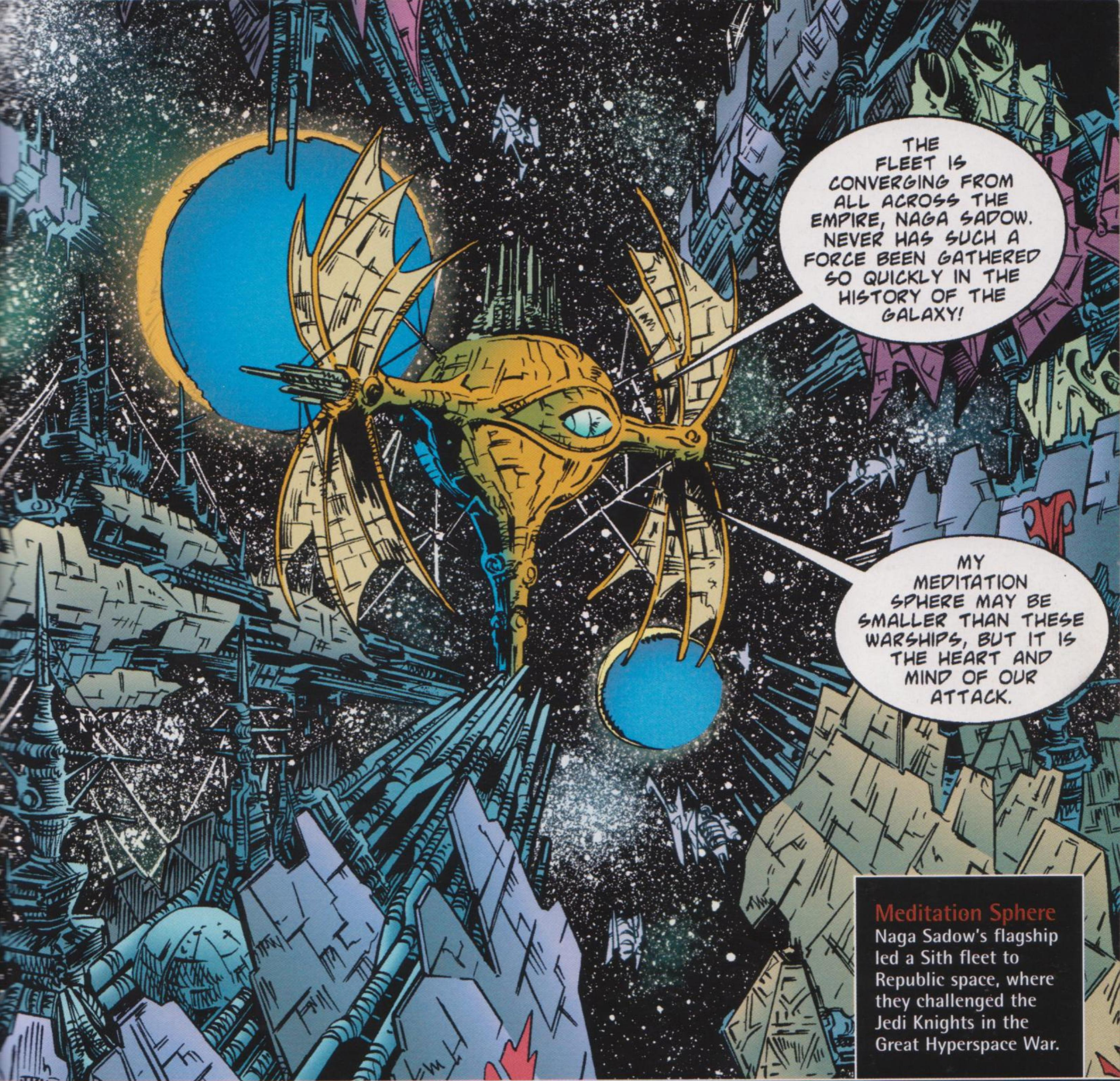
Naga Sadow

The Sith Homeworld

Korriban, the mausoleum planet, was part of the ancient home of the Sith. Great temples, statues, and tombs cluttered the planet, which served as the burial place for many Sith Lords. The tombs were designed to focus and amplify dark side energy. Latter-day Sith Lord Emperor Palpatine frequently visited Korriban, calling it his "place of power."



Time line: 5,000
years B.B.Y.



THE FLEET IS CONVERGING FROM ALL ACROSS THE EMPIRE, NAGA SADOW. NEVER HAS SUCH A FORCE BEEN GATHERED SO QUICKLY IN THE HISTORY OF THE GALAXY!

MY MEDITATION SPHERE MAY BE SMALLER THAN THESE WARSHIPS, BUT IT IS THE HEART AND MIND OF OUR ATTACK.

Meditation Sphere
Naga Sadow's flagship led a Sith fleet to Republic space, where they challenged the Jedi Knights in the Great Hyperspace War.

BUT THE JEDI KNIGHTS were ready. They defeated Sadow's armies and completely destroyed the Sith Empire's power—or so they thought. Undetected by the Jedi, Sadow and a few of his followers escaped to the remote Yavin system, settling on the fourth moon of Yavin (Yavin 4). There Sadow placed his spirit in suspended animation, where he waited for someone to reawaken him and bring about a new Sith golden age.

T H E S I T H W A R S

The dark legacy

CENTURIES passed before the Sith's dark legacy emerged again.

Six hundred years after the Great Hyperspace War, the spirit of Naga Sadow was reawakened by an ambitious Jedi named Freedon Nadd. Nadd learned the Sith ways from Sadow and used them to rule the primitive world of Onderon.

Freedon Nadd



Exar Kun

Four hundred years after Nadd's death, a brash and prideful young Jedi named Exar Kun began his own quest for dark side knowledge. He discovered the tomb of Freedon Nadd, where Nadd's spirit appeared to him and led him back to Sadow's tomb on Yavin 4.

Exar Kun perfected his dark side power, proclaiming himself the new Dark Lord of the Sith. He then began to turn weak-willed and young Jedi to the dark side, amassing his own army.

Time line: 4,400-3,986
years B.B.Y.

AT THE SAME TIME,

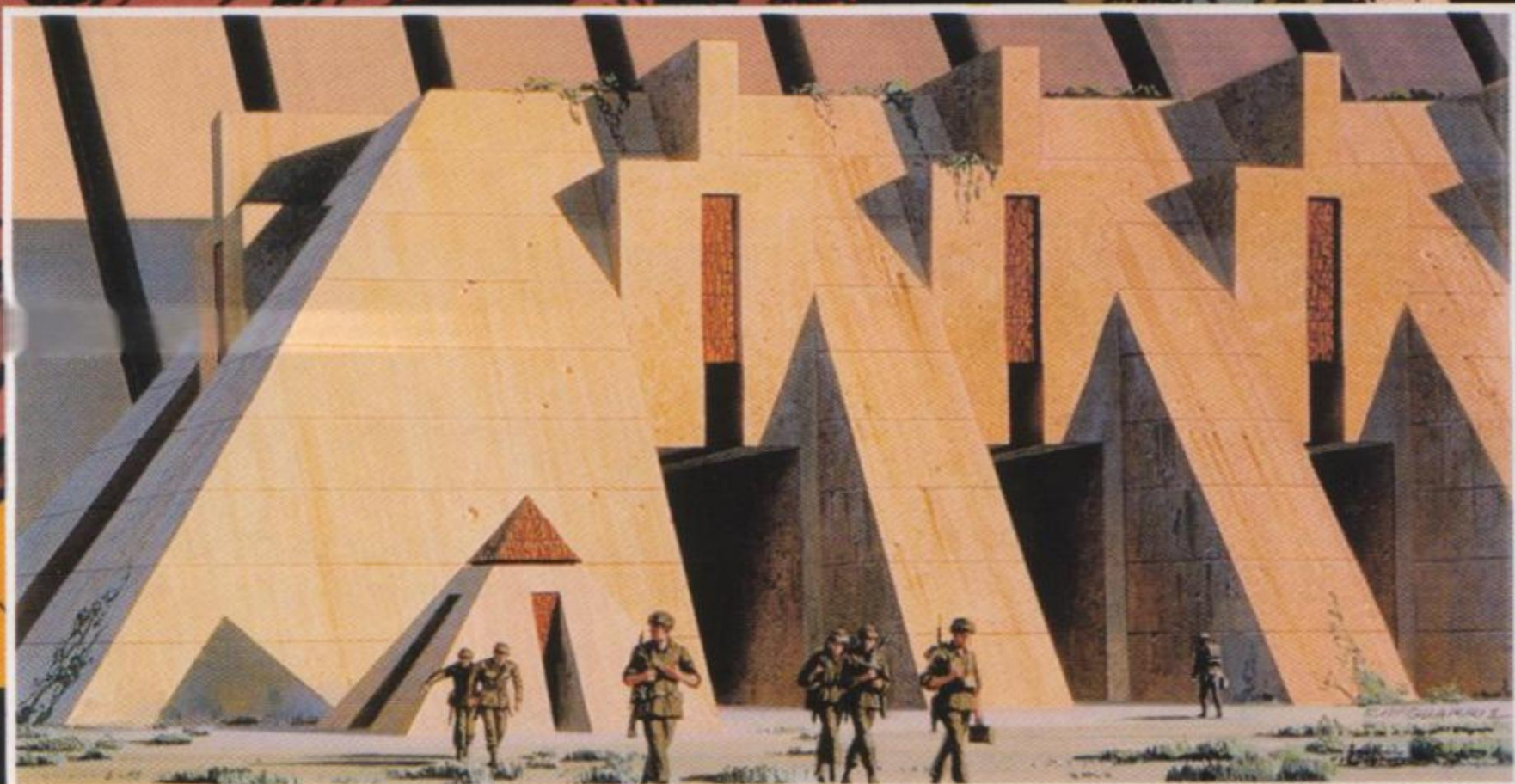
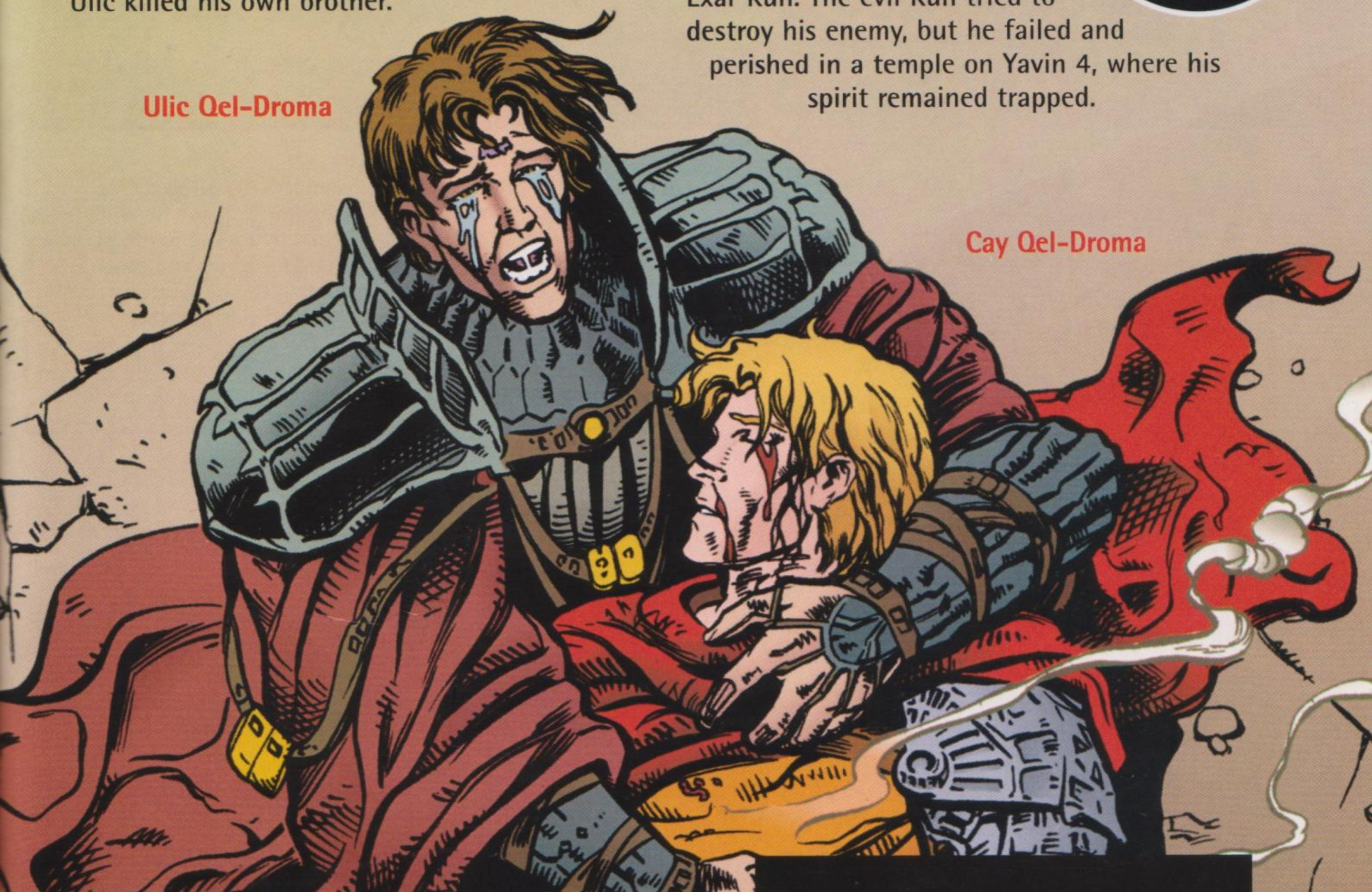
a Jedi named Ulic Qel-Droma also turned. He joined forces with Kun, and together they attacked the Jedi. The battle ended only when Ulic killed his own brother.

Ulic Qel-Droma

TO MAKE amends for killing his brother, Ulic turned away from the dark side and led the forces of good against Exar Kun. The evil Kun tried to destroy his enemy, but he failed and perished in a temple on Yavin 4, where his spirit remained trapped.



Cay Qel-Droma



The Massassi Enigma

This temple and the other ruins on the jungle moon of Yavin 4 were built long ago by disciples of Sith Lord Exar Kun and his predecessor, Naga Sadow. The architecture echoed that of the Sith's homeworld, with designs that could focus and amplify dark side power. Thousands of years after the death of Kun, the temple ruins on Yavin 4 would serve as the gathering point of the Rebel Alliance before their attack on the first Death Star in the Battle of Yavin.

DARTH BANE and the NEW SITH ORDER

AGAIN THE JEDI Council believed the Sith threat was gone forever. But one Sith Lord had escaped. His name was Darth Bane and he changed the ways of the Sith forever...

After witnessing his order's near decimation, Darth Bane knew that without patience and stealth the Sith would never survive. He also knew that his dark kindred, hungry for power, were as busy destroying themselves as they were trying to destroy the Jedi. In order to maintain control, Bane dictated the most important rule of the New Sith Order: there could be only two Sith at any one time—a Master and an apprentice.

THE SITH would now create a secret code and methods of training that could be passed down through the centuries, all the while waiting for the next chance to regain power and destroy the Jedi. Since Bane's own Master was killed in the battles on Ruusan, his training went unfinished. He remembered tales of great Sith power lingering untapped on Dxun, a moon of Onderon, so he went to the moon to unlock its dark secrets. After finding a concentrated force of dark side evil, Bane stayed on the moon for several years, using the energy to strengthen himself.

Kaan's Battle of Ruusan

Though the Sith civilization crumbled, the Sith's evil teachings continued to cast a shadow over the Republic. Approximately one thousand years before the Battle of Naboo, a Sith Lord named Kaan gathered an army and attacked the Republic, seeking a galactic dictatorship of "rule by the strong." The Jedi Knights met this attack with a battle fleet of their own. The war ended with the destruction of both armies on the planet Ruusan by a devastating Force weapon called a thought bomb.

DARTH BANE had living armor that covered most of his body. Hard-shelled, parasitic creatures called orbalisks attached themselves to his body as he struggled through the dense jungles of Dxun. The two parent orbalisks affixed themselves to Bane's chest, forming a breastplate. As they bred, the offspring spread out across his body. Although Bane initially attempted to remove the creatures, he soon realized that their symbiotic relationship was one from which he would ultimately benefit. He had to wear a cage-like protective helmet to keep the creatures from growing onto his face.



At His Command...

Orbalisks, poisonous to average beings, fed off Darth Bane's dark side energies, and in turn fed into his bloodstream a powerhouse supply of adrenaline, giving him extraordinary strength and making him an almost impenetrable enemy.



The Rise of Darth Sidious...

IT WAS NOT until the blockade of Naboo that the Sith once again threatened peace in the galaxy.

A shadowy Sith Lord named Darth Sidious manipulated greedy Neimoidian officials, who wanted control of Republic trade routes, into blockading the peaceful planet Naboo.

The outrage over this act led to changes in the Galactic Senate leadership, which would eventually lead to the rise of the Empire and the near destruction of the Jedi.

"Always two there are. No more. No less. A Master and an apprentice."

Jedi Master Yoda

"Move against the Jedi first."

Darth Sidious

Dark Transmission

Sith Lord Darth Sidious' manipulation of the Trade Federation was the beginning of his dark plan to destroy the Jedi and dominate the galaxy.

Time line: 32 years B.B.Y.

16

...And His Apprentice, Darth Maul

"Fear attracts the fearful...the strong, the weak, the innocent, the corrupt. Fear is my ally."

Darth Maul

AS DARTH Sidious' apprentice, Maul learned the ways of the dark side. Maul's body was completely covered with tattoos, his piercing eyes were stained yellow by the power of the dark side, and his blackened teeth made his snarl even more appalling. Maul knew his fierce appearance would strike fear in his enemies before they even began to fight.

Maul was born on Iridonia, but did not think about his past. It was not significant to him. A Sith forgets the past, looking only toward the future. All that mattered to him was his Master and his dedication to the dark side.

WHEN MAUL was sent by his Master to track the Jedi Master Qui-Gon Jinn and his apprentice on Tatooine, he became the first Sith Lord to openly battle a Jedi in a thousand years. His appearance shocked the Jedi Council. They had long believed the Sith threat was gone forever.

Duel of the Fates

Maul launched his first assault against the Jedi by challenging Qui-Gon Jinn on the dunes of Tatooine. Maul surprised the Jedi Master and fought ferociously. But even though Qui-Gon was older than Maul, the wily Jedi still managed to escape.

17

DARTH MAUL'S Training and Battles

LITTLE is known about the methods Sith masters used to train their apprentices. According to records kept by Darth Maul, Sith training was harsh, cruel, and relentless. His every waking hour was spent learning self-defense and how to harness the power of the dark side. During Maul's training, even small mistakes could lead to terrible punishments. Starvation, beatings, and exposure to danger were common. Lord Sidious wanted his apprentice to learn that pain could come from anywhere, even from someone trusted.

Dark Lessons from a Sith Lord
Darth Sidious taught Maul many harsh lessons as he trained his apprentice to face the Jedi in battle:

"There is no pain where strength lies."

"The feelings of the powerless do not matter. The feelings of the powerful can be exploited."

"Anger is a living thing. Feed it and it will grow."

"Punishment is a lesson."

"You must be prepared to lose your own life in order to win."

SIDIOUS USED assassin droids to test the progress of his apprentice. With their weapons set to kill, the assassin droids could have ended the young Maul's life. But a Sith Master would rather lose an unworthy apprentice than train a weakling in the ways of the dark side.

MAUL'S TRAINING culminated with one final challenge: a survival test on a savage planet where he was ultimately forced to face his own Master in a duel. Only when Maul's turn to the dark side was complete and he was willing to kill his own Master was he deemed worthy of becoming a Sith Lord. After that, Darth Maul belonged to the dark side forever.

Time line: 32 years B.B.Y.

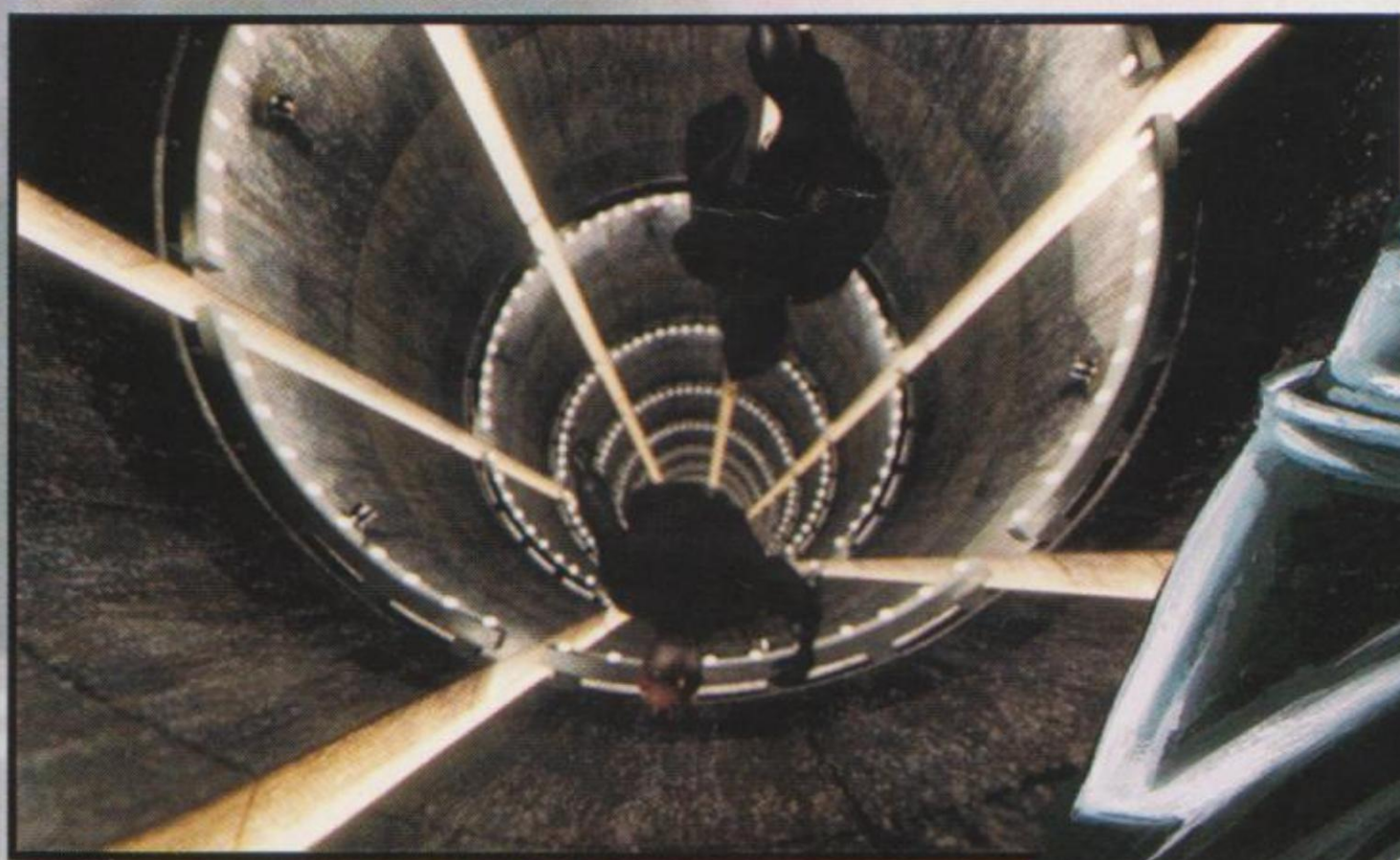
Duel Action

Determined to fulfill his Master's mission, Darth Maul followed Jedi Master Qui-Gon Jinn to Naboo, where he simultaneously battled Qui-Gon and his apprentice, Obi-Wan Kenobi.



The Final Cut

During his spectacular display of Sith arts, Maul ran Qui-Gon through with his lightsaber. But his victory was short-lived. Upon witnessing the cruel murder of his Master, Obi-Wan Kenobi rallied his Force powers and cut the Sith Lord in half, destroying him.



MAUL'S death left Darth Sidious alone in his struggle against the Jedi. Sidious would have to find another apprentice quickly, before the Jedi Council declared war on the Sith again.

FATEFULLY, as Qui-Gon lay dying, he made Obi-Wan promise to train Anakin Skywalker, the future Darth Vader, in the Jedi ways.

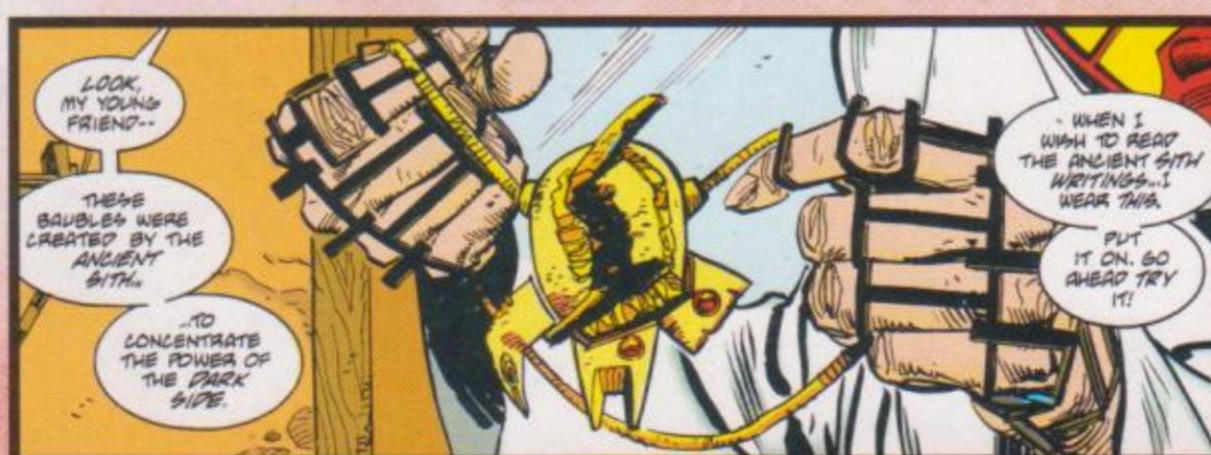


POWERS AND WEAPONS

THE SITH SOMETIMES called on more than the power of the dark side in their quest to conquer the galaxy. The Sith Lords used tools that focused and absorbed the powers of the dark side.

Sith Swords

Predating the lightsabers of the latter-day Sith, the blades on a Sith sword were made of alchemically altered metal that never became dull. These swords were able to deflect blaster fire and lightsabers.



Sith Talismans

Some of the ancient Sith wore talismans for self-defense. They were used as protection from energy blasts and Force attacks. Acting as shields, talismans absorbed the energy that was meant to harm them and rerouted its power to use as fuel.

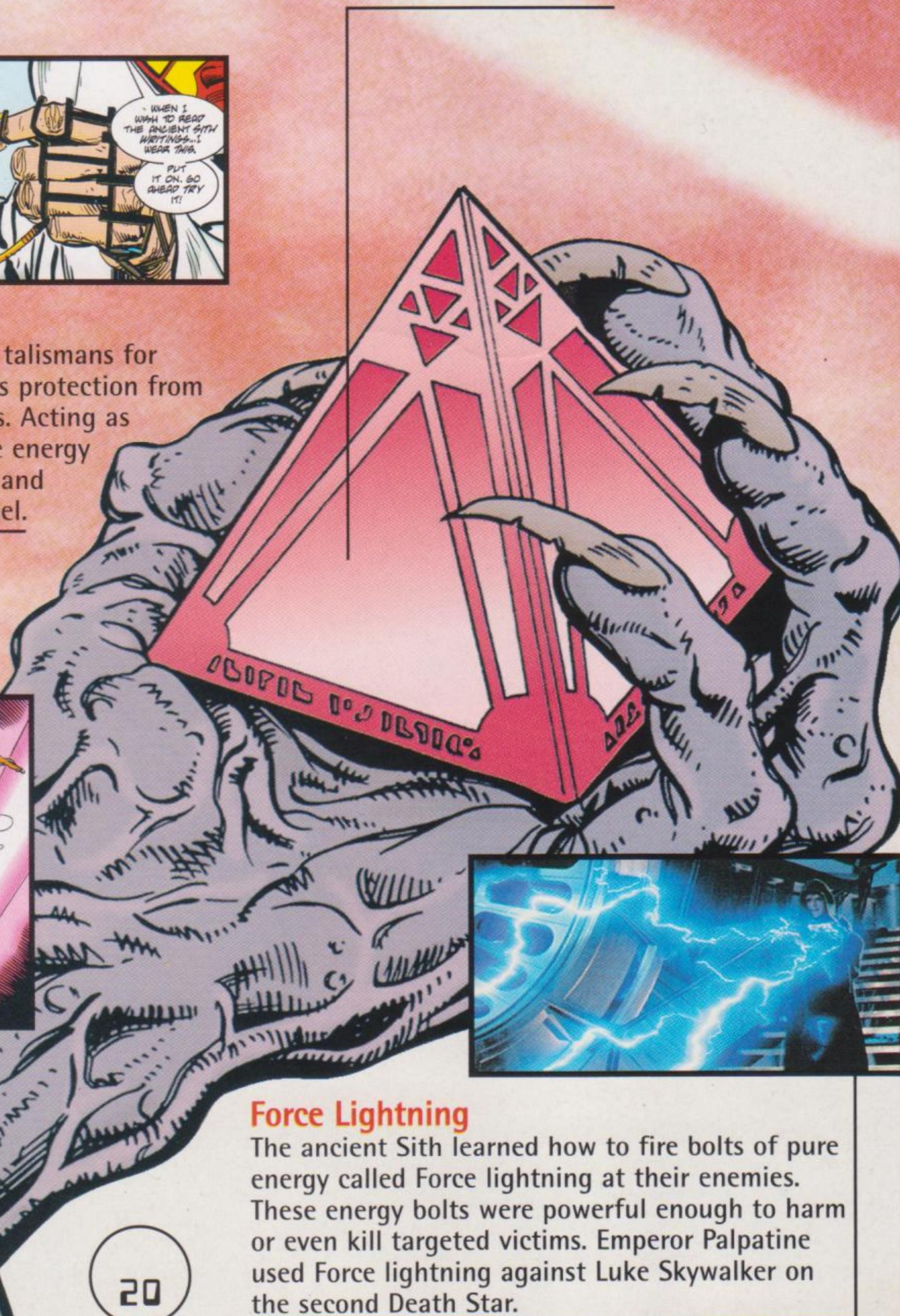
Sith Amulets

The ancient Sith Lords used their dark side abilities to create amulets through which the spirits of dead Dark Lords could speak to the living. Exar Kun and Ulic Qel-Droma each wore amulets and were visited by past Dark Lords, who instructed them in the ways of the dark side.



Sith Holocron

The Holocrons were the most sought-after objects of the ancient Sith. They contained all of the teachings of the Dark Lords of the Sith, going back to the beginnings of their dark order. One rare Holocron was taken from the Sith by Jedi Master Odan-Urr. The last known keeper of this dark Holocron was Jedi Master Yaddle, who kept it safe in the Jedi Archives on Coruscant.



Force Lightning

The ancient Sith learned how to fire bolts of pure energy called Force lightning at their enemies. These energy bolts were powerful enough to harm or even kill targeted victims. Emperor Palpatine used Force lightning against Luke Skywalker on the second Death Star.

OF THE ANCIENT SITH

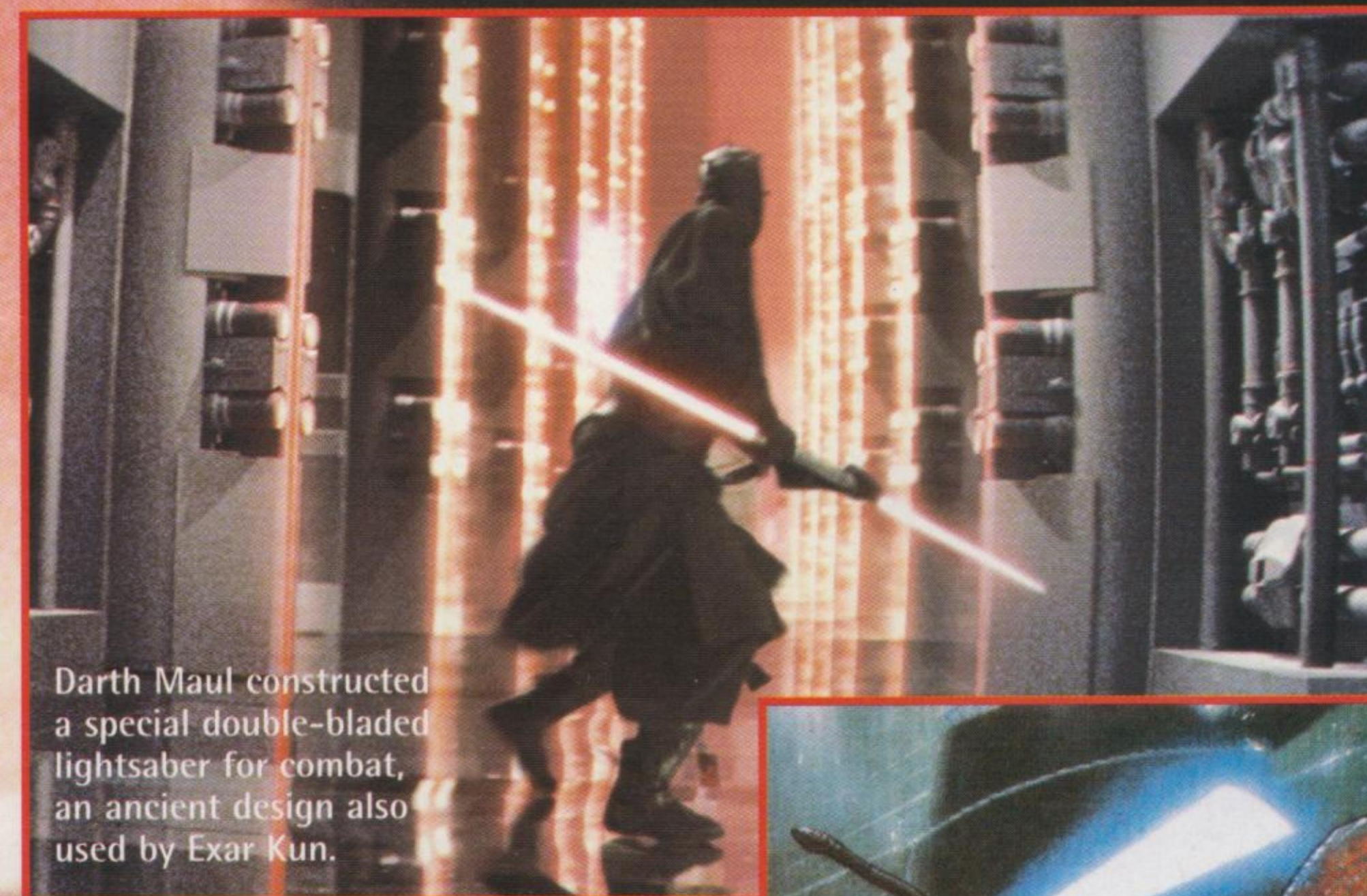
THE LIGHTSABER

OFTEN ASSOCIATED with Jedi Knights, the lightsaber was also a weapon of the Sith. Like Jedi Padawans, Sith apprentices built their own lightsabers as part of their training. The deadly energy blade of the lightsaber could cut through anything except another lightsaber blade. The blade itself weighed nothing and gave off no heat, making it difficult for a trainee to calculate its path. Years of study were needed to master this weapon.



Thought Bomb

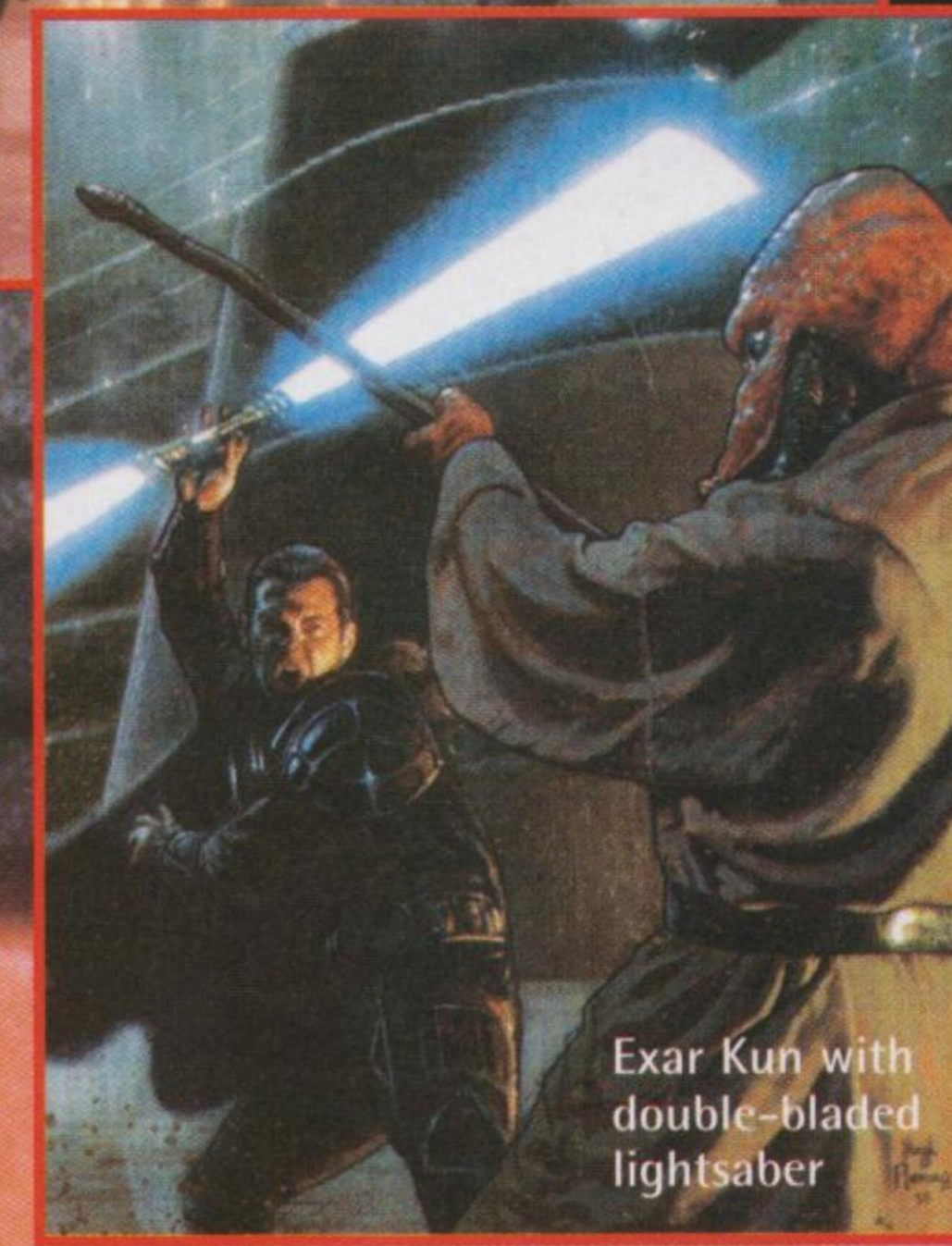
Created through the concentrated power of many Dark Knights, the thought bomb was an explosive cauldron of seething Force energy. This device was last used by the ancient Sith Lord Kaan. Trapped with the remaining numbers of his decimated Sith army, Kaan used the thought bomb as a last desperate act. The furious explosion of energy that Kaan unleashed annihilated not only the Jedi but also his own dark legion.



Darth Maul constructed a special double-bladed lightsaber for combat, an ancient design also used by Exar Kun.

Darth Vader and His Lightsaber

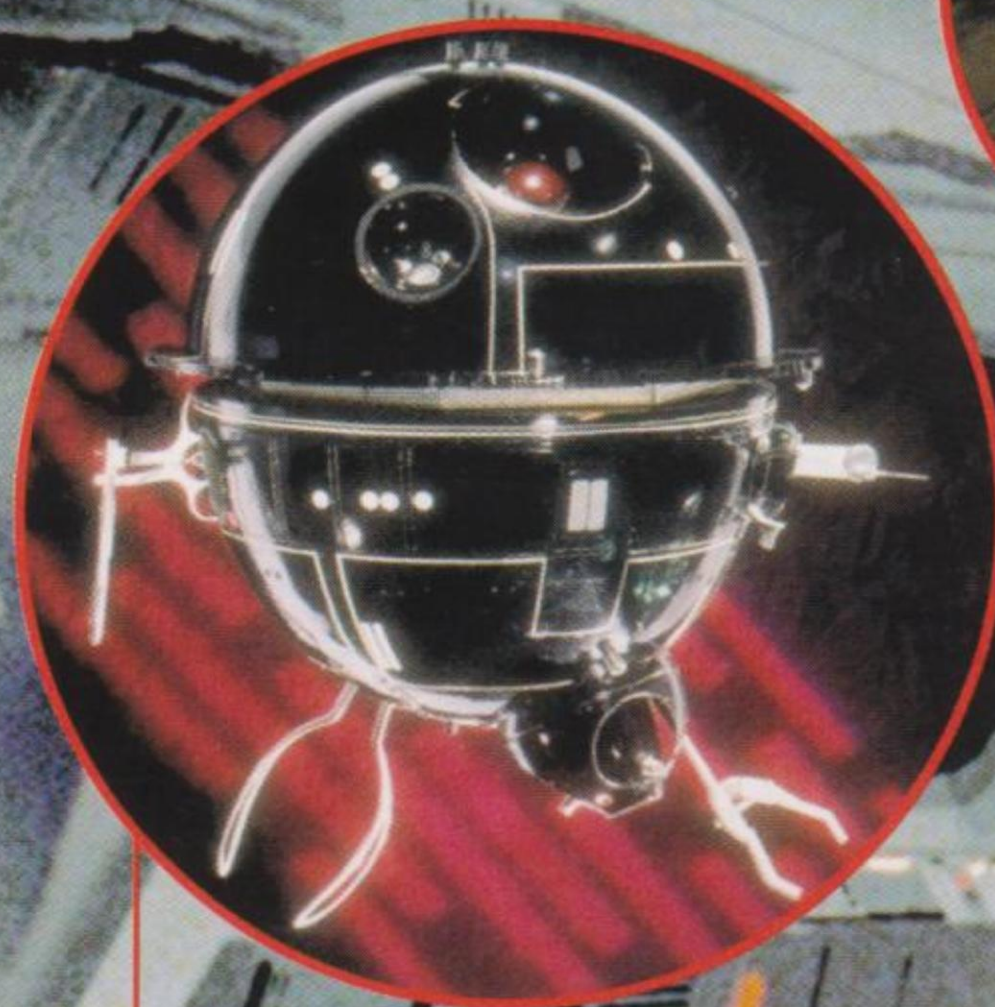
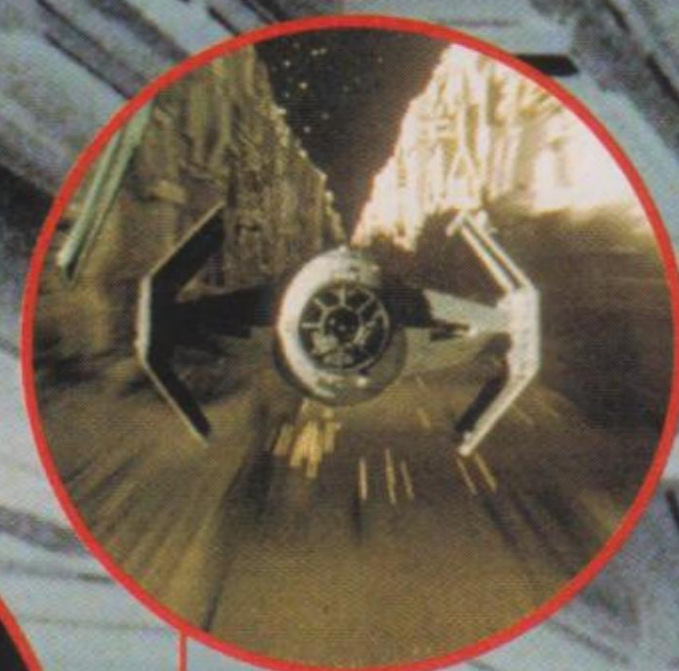
Darth Vader's single-bladed lightsaber was fiery red. He preferred the single blade to the flashiness of the double-bladed lightsaber.



Exar Kun with double-bladed lightsaber

Sith Vehicles Technology

LATTER-DAY SITH used more than lightsabers to wage their battles against the Jedi. They also used specially modified vehicles and weapons designed to be fast, powerful, and deadly.



Star Destroyer Executor
This Super-class Star Destroyer served as Darth Vader's command ship after the destruction of the first Death Star. Built to dwarf even the largest ship, the Executor was designed to strike fear into all enemies of the Empire. This ship also served as Darth Vader's command center during the long hunt for Luke Skywalker. The Executor was finally destroyed at the Battle of Endor.

Interrogator Droid
Darth Vader used an interrogator droid to torture information out of Rebel prisoners of war. Equipped with a number of pain-inflicting devices, an interrogator droid could cause temporary or permanent injuries to captive beings.

TIE Advanced X1 Fighter
Darth Vader's personal TIE fighter was different from all the others. A prototype vehicle, the TIE Advanced was too expensive to mass-produce. But it was the perfect attack craft for Darth Vader. The TIE Advanced X1 1 Fighter was the only TIE fighter equipped with a hyperdrive engine, which allowed it to travel vast distances through space.

Dark Eye Probe Droids
Probe droids were programmed to spy and store audio and visual records. When fed specific data, these droids were able to find their target on the most heavily populated planet or on a deserted frontier world. These probes could also be fitted with offensive weapons and controlled by a wrist link.

Sith Speeder
The Sith Speeder was a simple unarmed repulsor lift vehicle. It was able to reach top speeds and maneuver well. Darth Maul used it to travel over land when on missions for Darth Sidious.

Sith Infiltrator
Darth Maul's Infiltrator was a specially modified version of an advanced armed star courier. The most important alteration was the addition of a cloaking device, which could render the ship invisible. The ship's experimental twin-ion engine required radiator fins that opened during flight and closed when the ship landed. Darth Maul used this ship to track enemies across the galaxy.

Emperor Palpatine

EMPEROR PALPATINE was the only Sith Lord to gain control of the galaxy. His philosophy of governing was an extension of his Sith principles: "Rule through fear."

Using his Imperial Navy battle fleets and ground assault army, Palpatine crushed his enemies. He also built two Death Stars—space stations with enough firepower to destroy entire planets.

Palpatine began his political career as a Senator from the planet Naboo. During the Trade Federation blockade, he rose to power in the Galactic Senate. When the Trade Federation invaded Naboo, Palpatine urged the young Queen Amidala to address the Senate. In the political struggle that followed the Naboo invasion, Palpatine replaced Chancellor Valorum as the head of the Galactic Senate.

EVENTUALLY Palpatine declared himself Emperor of the galaxy. Many planets that had resisted Palpatine soon felt his iron grip.

But one group fought the Emperor at every turn. The Jedi Knights, defenders of justice, tried to stop Palpatine. With the help of his dark apprentice, Darth Vader, Emperor Palpatine hunted down and killed almost all of the Jedi Knights.

"Your feeble skills are no match for the power of the dark side."
Emperor Palpatine, to Jedi Knight Luke Skywalker

Time line: 32 years B.B.Y.
-4 years A.B.Y.

24

Death Trap

The Death Star was the Emperor's supreme achievement—a fully armed battle station that was built to destroy planets—or so he thought. It only had one opportunity to demonstrate its firepower before it was destroyed by Luke Skywalker in the Battle of Yavin. Emperor Palpatine tried to build a better Death Star, but it too was destroyed, during the Battle of Endor.



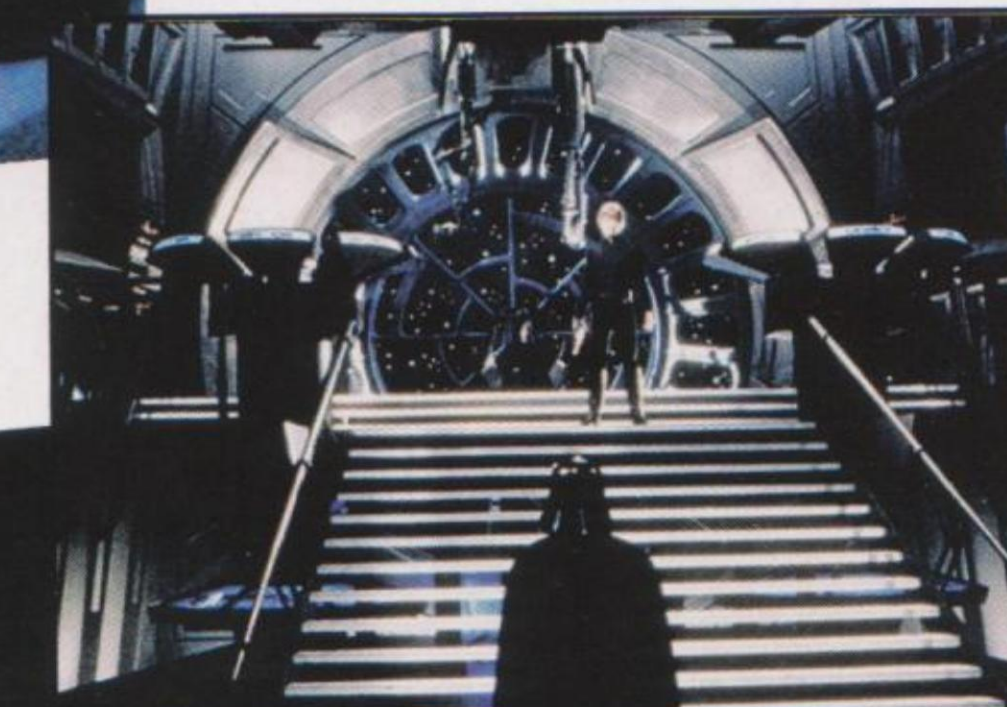
ONLY A FEW Jedi survived Palpatine's purge. They were forced to flee to faraway planets like Tatooine and Dagobah.

From their hiding places, the Jedi struck back by training a new hope—Luke Skywalker.

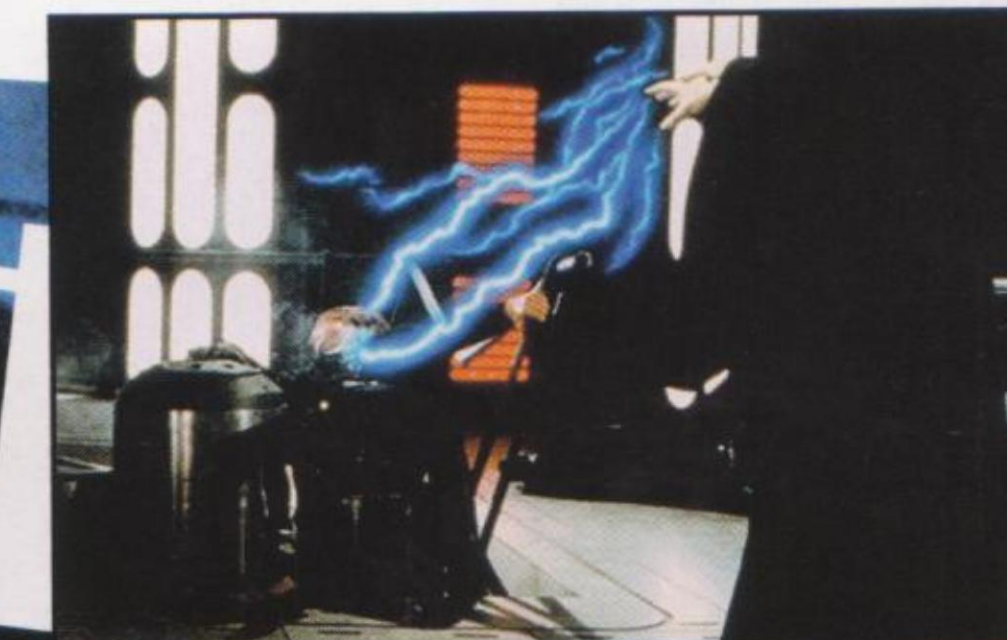
Luke joined the Rebellion against the Emperor and helped bring about his final defeat.



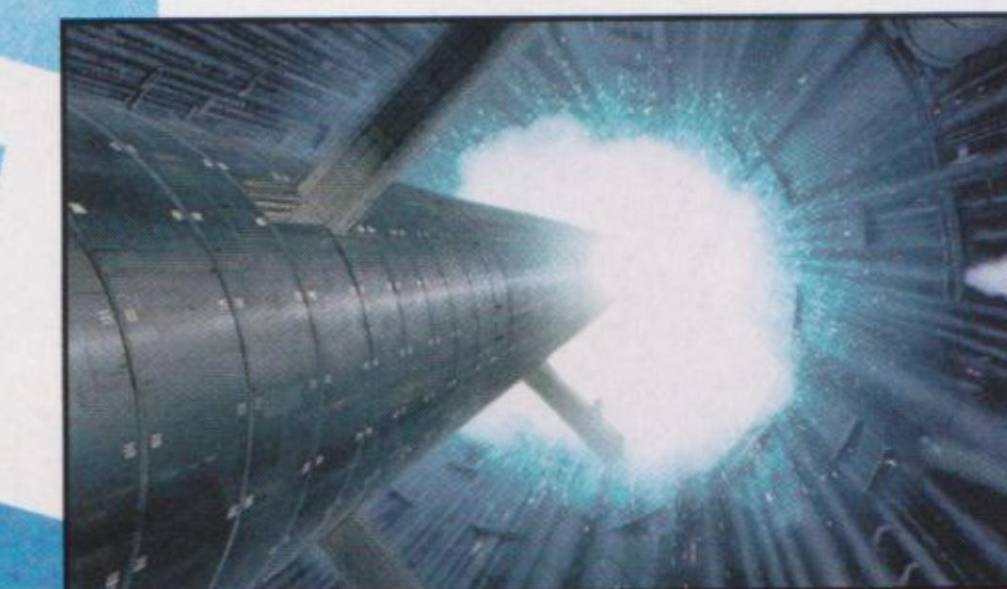
Darth Vader and legions of troops greet Emperor Palpatine in the docking bay of the new Death Star.



Palpatine watches Luke Skywalker and Darth Vader prepare to fight.



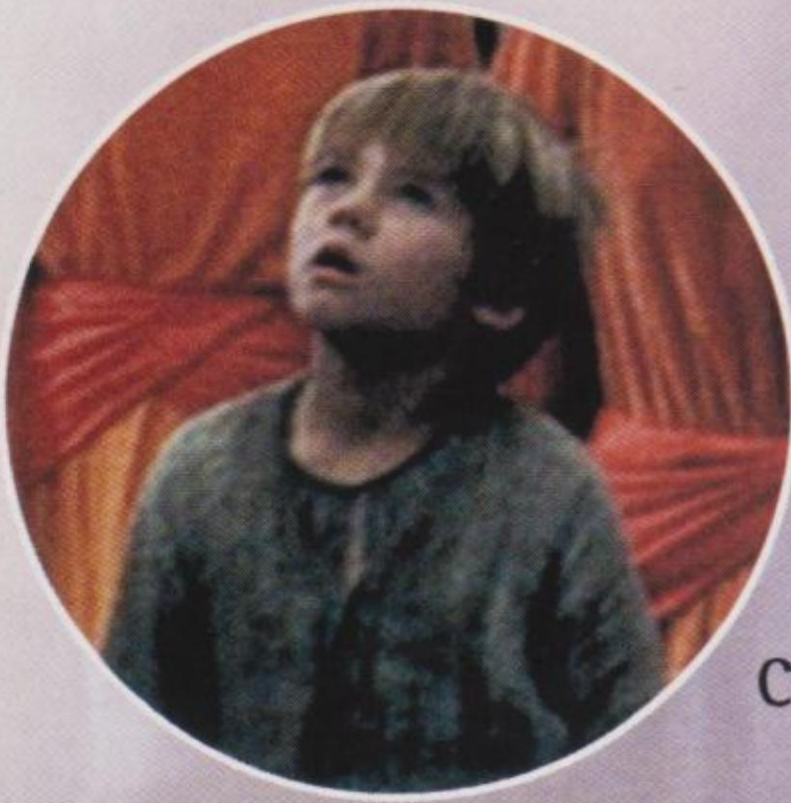
Palpatine fills Luke's body with deadly Force lightning after Luke refuses to turn to the dark side.



Choosing to save Luke, Darth Vader hurls Palpatine down a Death Star shaft to his death.

25

DARTH VADER



BEFORE HE WAS TWISTED by the dark side, Darth Vader was a Jedi named Anakin Skywalker. As a young slave boy, Anakin was recognized by the Jedi Council as having uncommonly powerful Force abilities. Some even thought he was the one prophesied to "bring balance to the Force." After single-handedly bringing down the Trade Federation's key Droid Control Ship in the Battle of Naboo, young Anakin became the Jedi apprentice of Obi-Wan Kenobi. Anakin later fought in the Clone Wars before being drawn to the dark side.



A Close Watch

Chancellor Palpatine predicts the future as he congratulates Anakin for a job well done in the Battle of Naboo.

OBI-WAN tried to lure his apprentice back from the dark side but failed. They dueling, and during their battle, Anakin fell into a molten pit. He survived, but his body had to be encased in life-support armor. Vader's turn to the dark side was now complete, and he vowed to destroy Obi-Wan Kenobi and all the Jedi Knights.



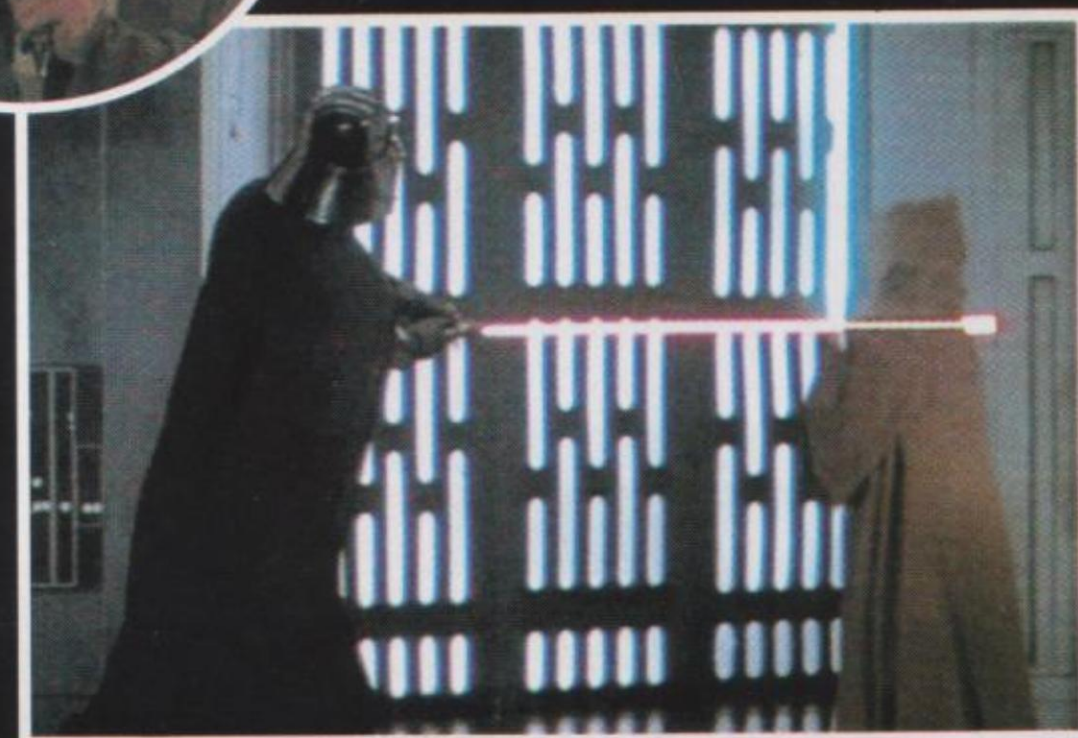
DARTH VADER fought many battles for his Sith Master, Emperor Palpatine. Most of his limbs had been hacked away and replaced with powerful machines. His artificial arms and legs were strong and indestructible.

Time line: 32 years B.B.Y.
-4 years A.B.Y.

"He's more machine now than man, twisted and evil."

Obi-Wan Kenobi,
about Darth Vader

YEARS LATER, Vader would battle Obi-Wan again, this time on Emperor Palpatine's Death Star. The elderly Obi-Wan purposely surrendered during their lightsaber clash, allowing Vader to finish him off. The selfless act seemed to give Vader the victory. But Obi-Wan's sacrifice actually allowed Vader's son, Luke Skywalker—the Jedi's new hope and Vader's ultimate downfall—to escape Vader's clutches.



"If you strike me down, I shall become more powerful than you can possibly imagine."

Obi-Wan Kenobi



Tortured Rebel

Darth Vader enjoys watching Han Solo's misery in cloud City.

"Apology accepted, Captain Needa."

Darth Vader



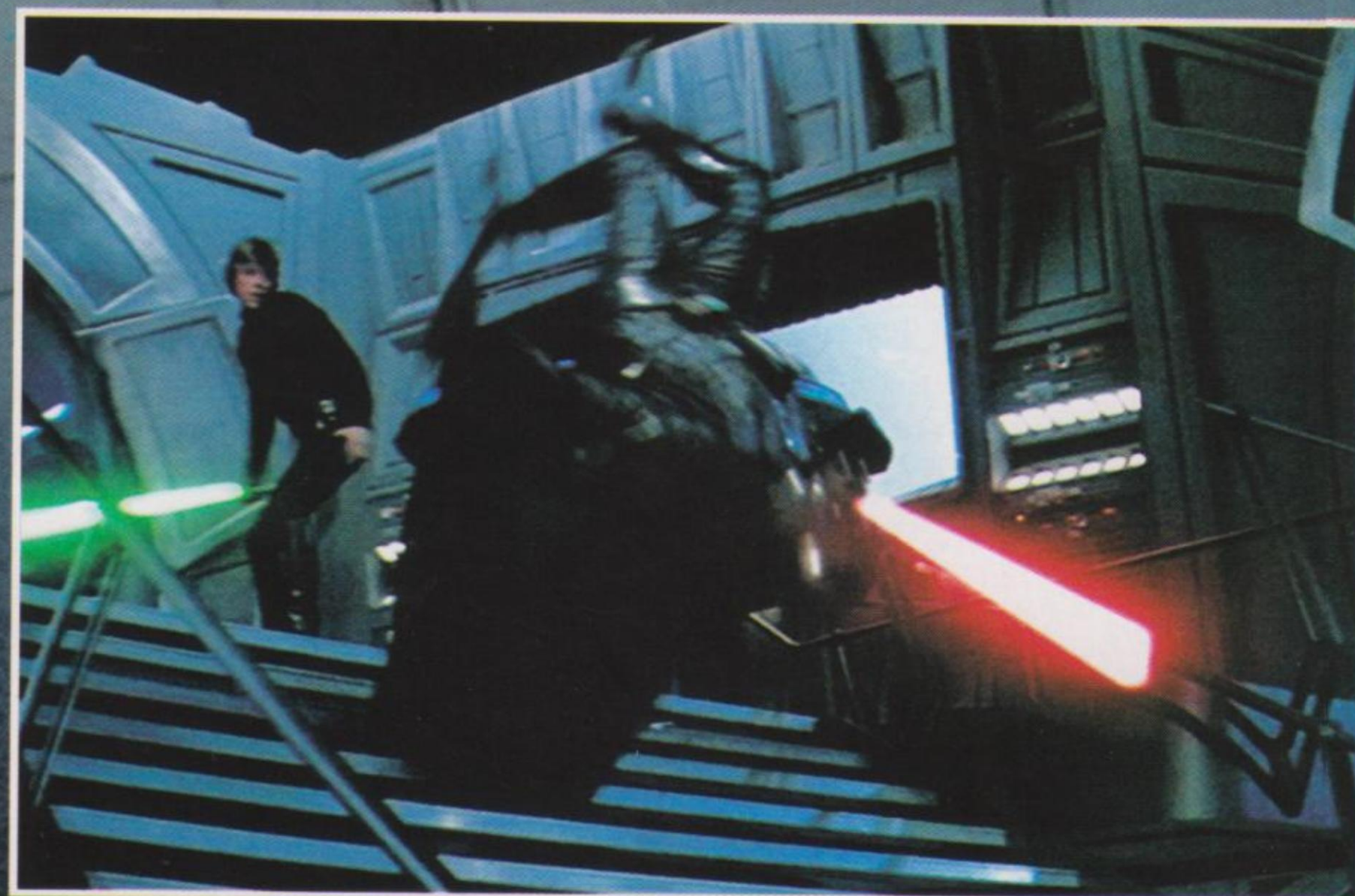
THE FINAL BATTLE



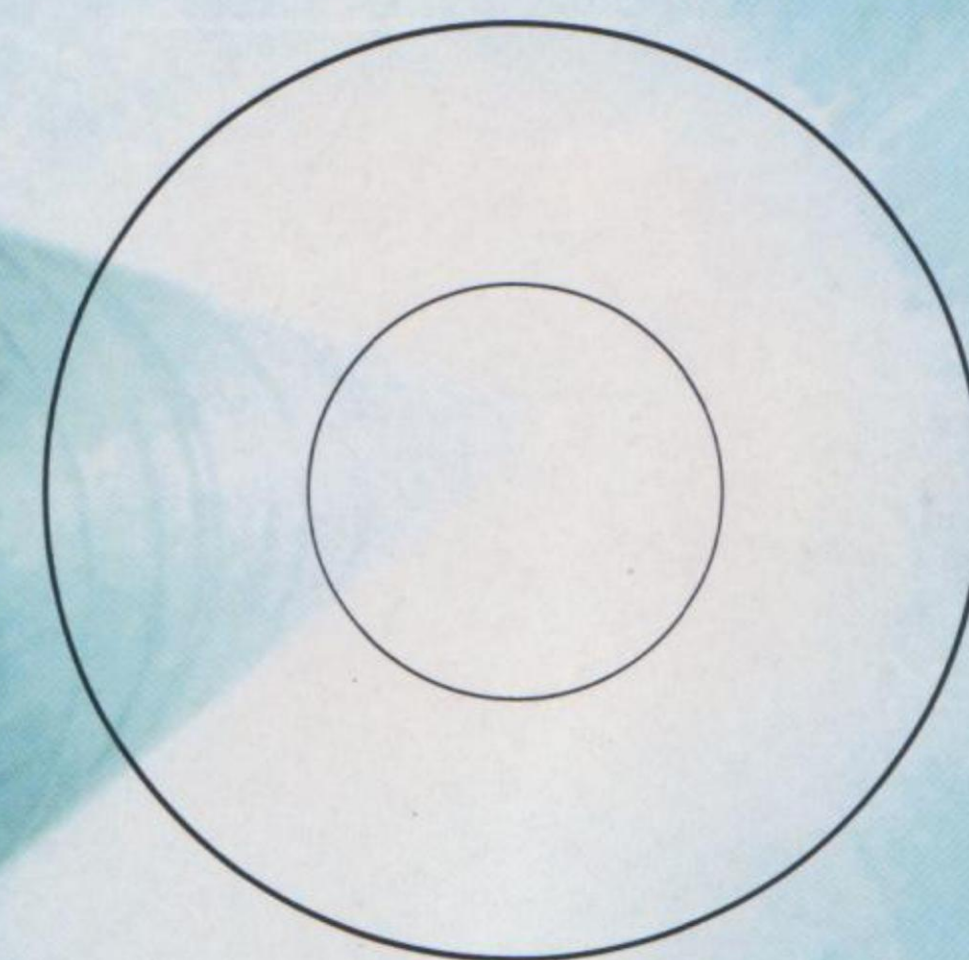
WHILE TRYING to find the fabled Kaiburr Crystal of Mimban, Darth Vader finally encountered and fought young Luke Skywalker, who had joined the Rebel Alliance to fight Palpatine's tyrannical Empire. After severing Vader's arm, Luke escaped. Twice more Vader faced Luke in combat, hoping to turn him to the dark side and overthrow Emperor Palpatine so that Vader and his son might rule the universe together.



THE FIRST DUEL took place over the wind core of Bespin's Cloud City. At the time, Luke Skywalker had not yet completed his Jedi training, and Vader defeated him, severing his son's right hand with a lightsaber blade and severing his spirit with the words "I am your father." Though devastated, Luke fled, refusing to take his father's hand and join him in the dark side.



BATTLE



THE SECOND father-son duel took place on Emperor Palpatine's second Death Star. Now more able to control the Force, Luke Skywalker was finally able to defeat his powerful father. But he was no match for the evil Emperor. When Luke refused to turn to the dark side, Palpatine stepped forward to destroy Luke with Force lightning.

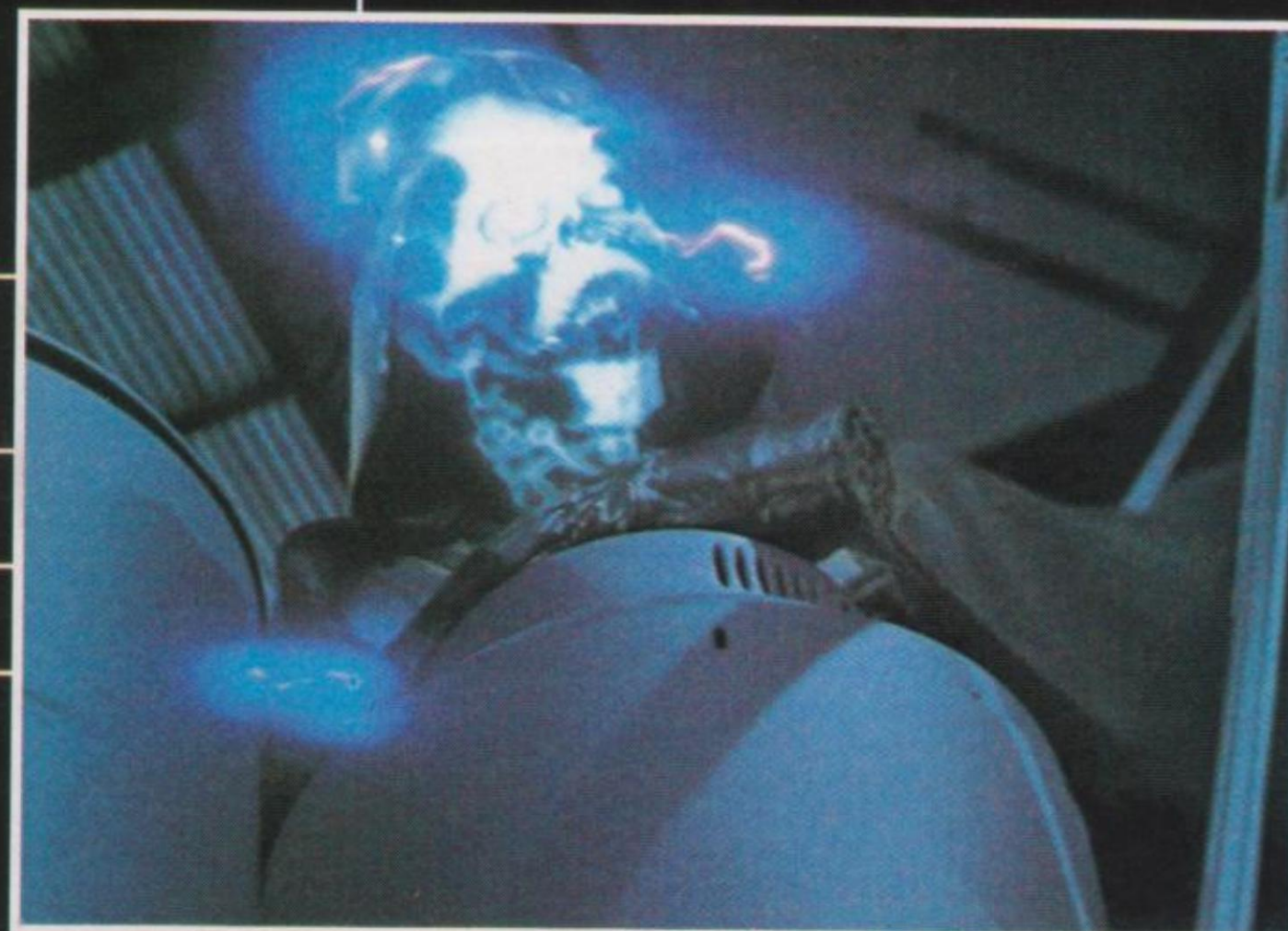


IN THE END, Darth Vader underestimated the potential for good locked inside himself. Unable to watch his son die so terribly, Vader turned on his Master and hurled him down a Death Star power shaft, where he disintegrated. The resulting shock waves of dark power mortally wounded Vader, but his sacrifice saved Luke Skywalker and helped free the universe of evil.

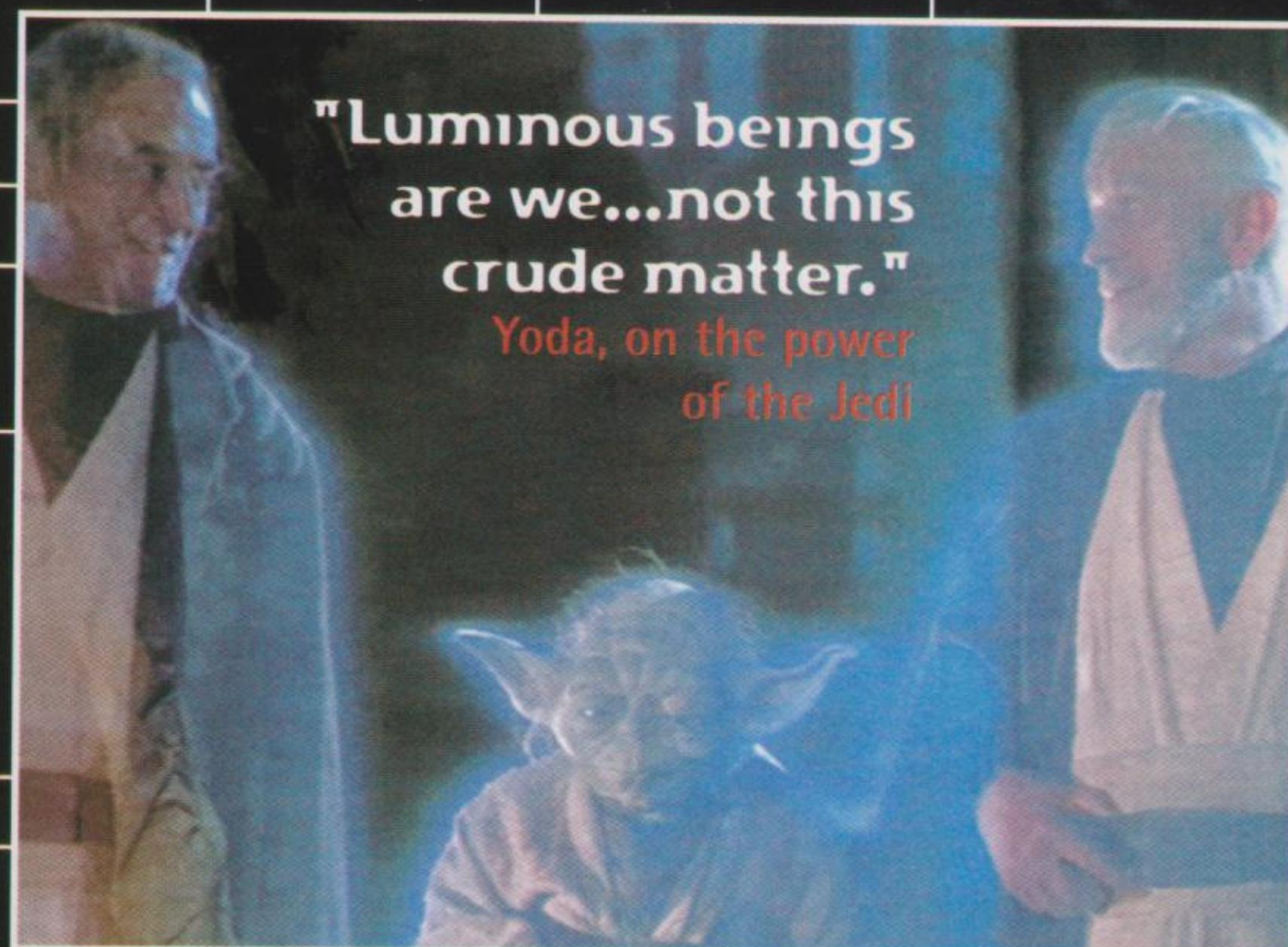


"You were right about me. Tell your sister...you were right."
Anakin Skywalker

THE DARK SIDE led the Sith Lords to do terrible things. They destroyed worlds and enslaved whole planets. But no matter how evil their actions were, they were never beyond redemption. Most Sith Lords died in battle, their lives wasted in the pursuit of power. But a few were finally able to see beyond the dark side and redeem themselves. As they let go of their anger, the light side of the Force flowed through them once again.



THE MOST celebrated example of Sith redemption is Darth Vader. The moment Vader turned away from the dark side and destroyed his Sith Master, he saved his son, restored his Jedi honor, and fulfilled the prophecy, becoming the one who brought balance to the Force.



"Luminous beings are we...not this crude matter."
Yoda, on the power of the Jedi

AFTER Anakin Skywalker perished, his spirit was reunited with those of his noble Jedi mentors—Yoda and Obi-Wan Kenobi. With joy, the three Jedi spirits watched the Rebels celebrate their victory against the Empire. For now, with Palpatine destroyed, the galaxy was free from the evil of the Dark Lords of the Sith. However, as long as the dark side could still tempt and corrupt, the Jedi's vigilance against evil would be never-ending.

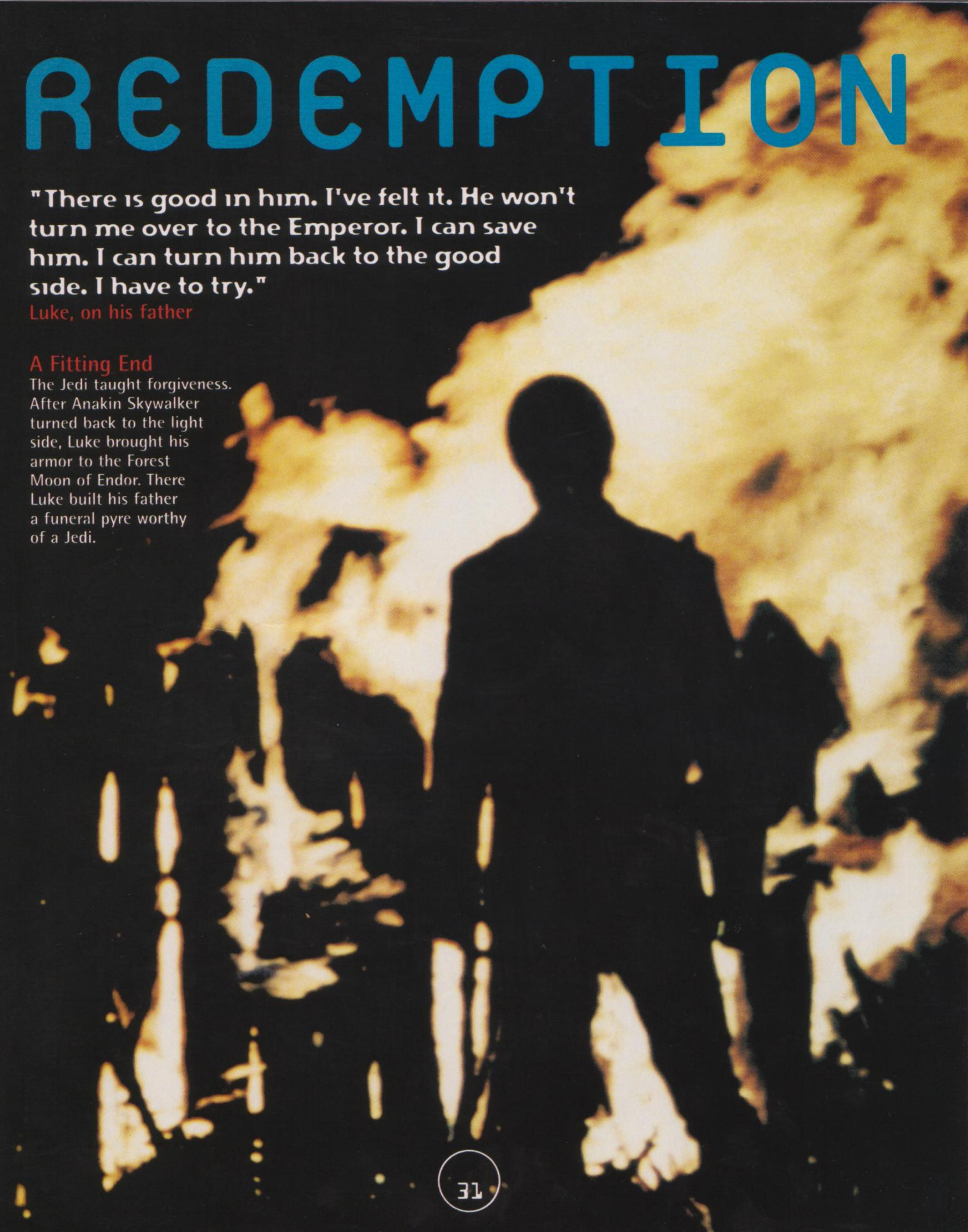
SITH REDEMPTION

"There is good in him. I've felt it. He won't turn me over to the Emperor. I can save him. I can turn him back to the good side. I have to try."

Luke, on his father

A Fitting End

The Jedi taught forgiveness. After Anakin Skywalker turned back to the light side, Luke brought his armor to the Forest Moon of Endor. There Luke built his father a funeral pyre worthy of a Jedi.



Secrets of the Sith

Gallery of Pull-Out Posters

SITH ARCHIVES have turned up these photos. We have bound them into this document with perforated pages so that you might easily remove them and hang them on the walls of your personal spaces.



In search of missing plans (SW IV)



A most desperate hour (SW IV)



Massive attack (SW V)



Taking care of business (SW V)



Darth Bane (Sith historical figure)



Bridge of the Executor (SW V)



Imperial shuttle (SW VI)



"Let the hate flow through you." (SW VI)



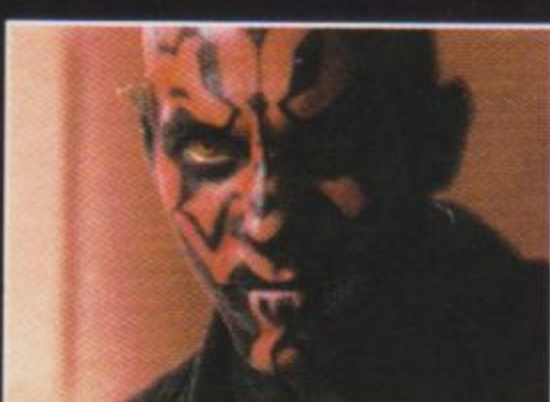
The Emperor's dignitaries (SW VI)



Duel of the Fates (SW I)



Toppling a Sith Lord (SW I)



Impatient glare (SW I)



Saber clash (SW I)



Darth Maul

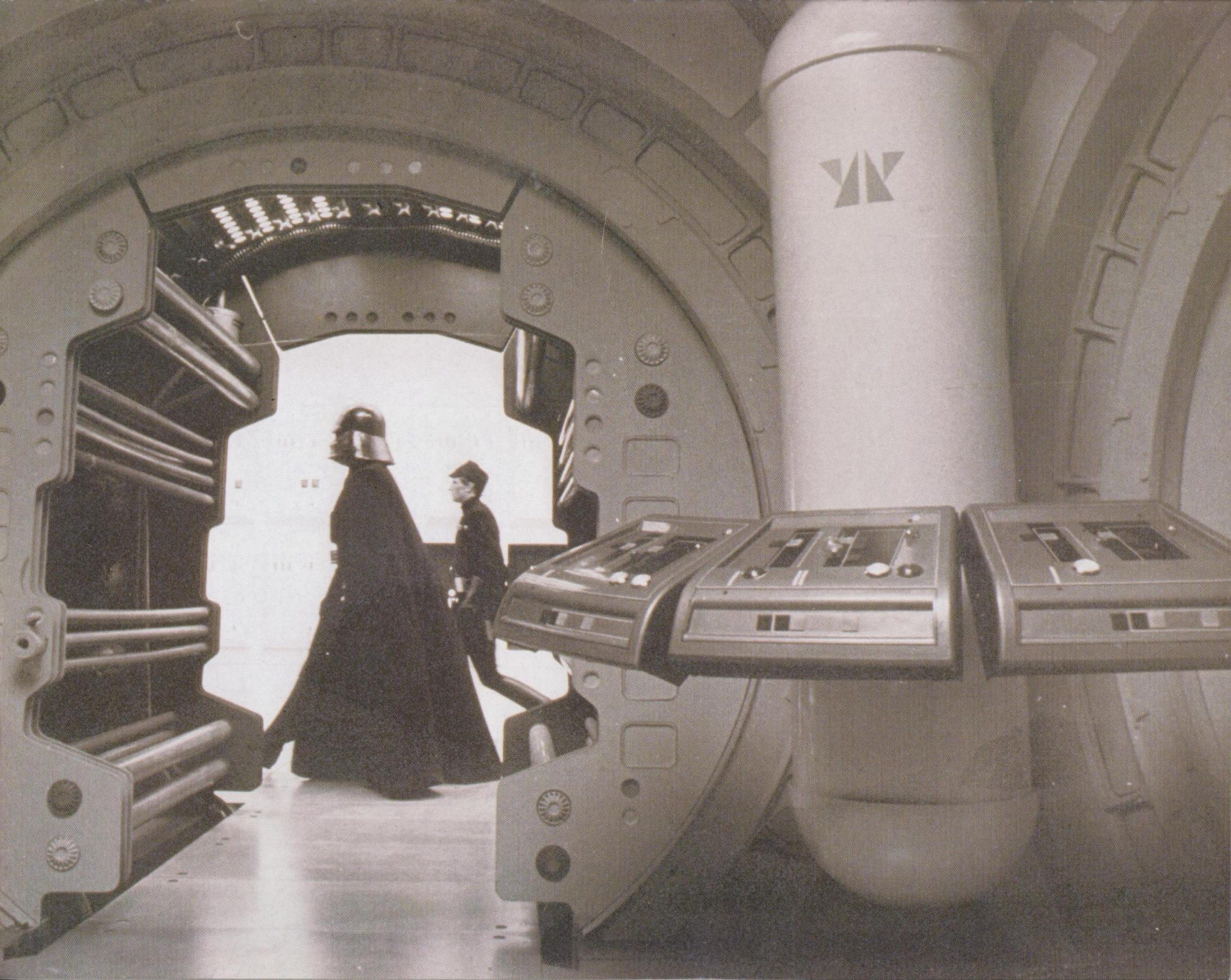


Apprentice vs. apprentice (SW I)

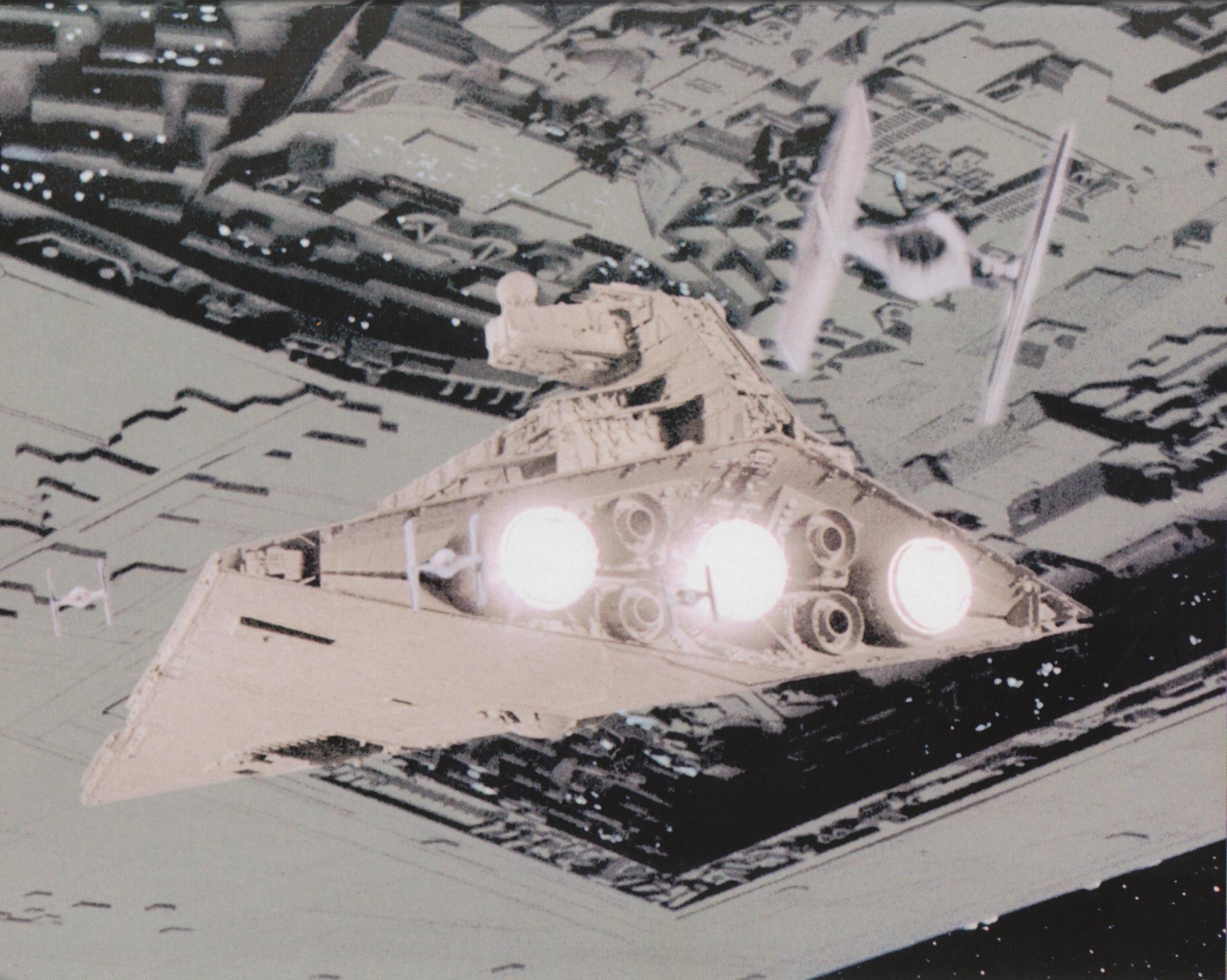


Cut to the quick (SW I)



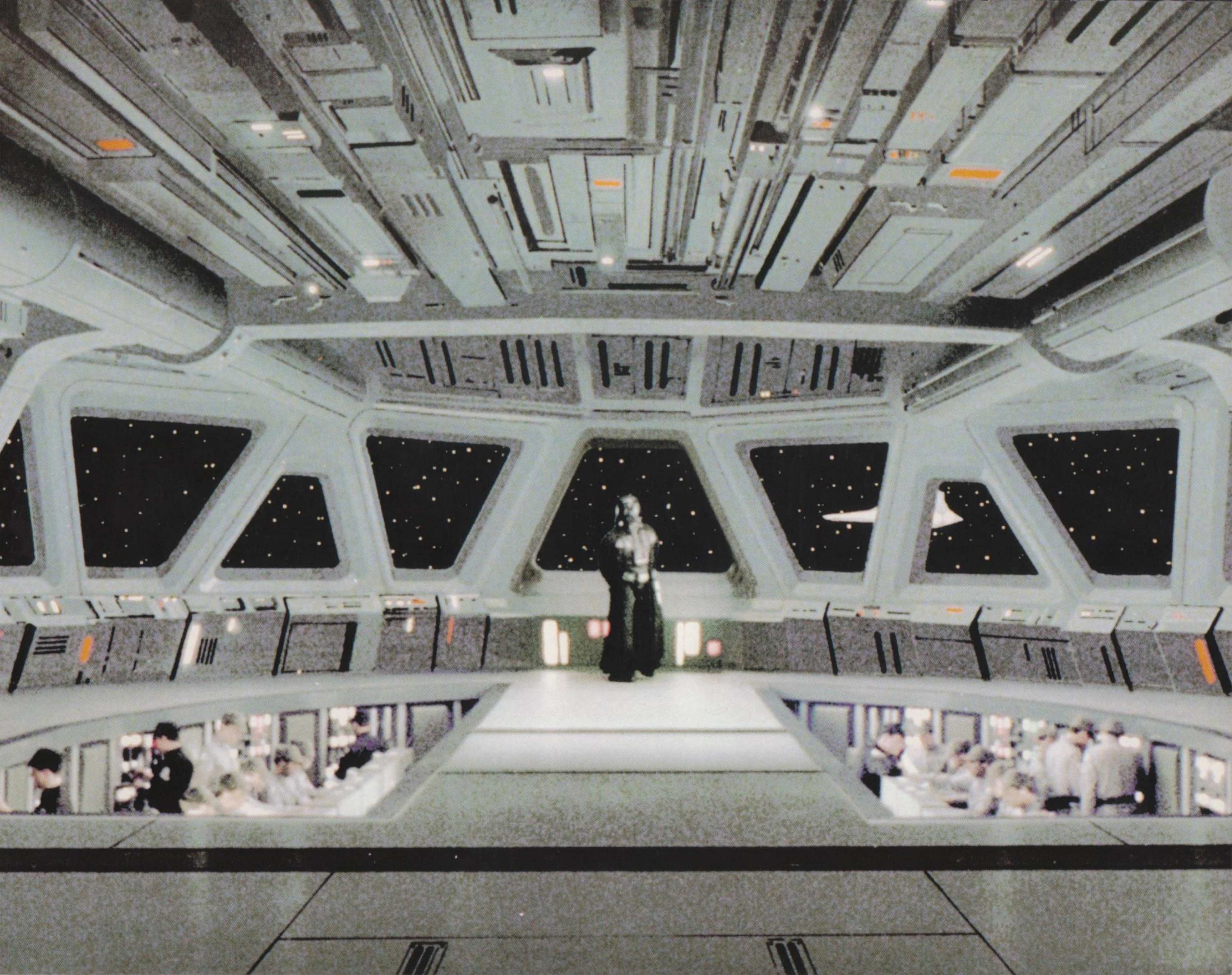


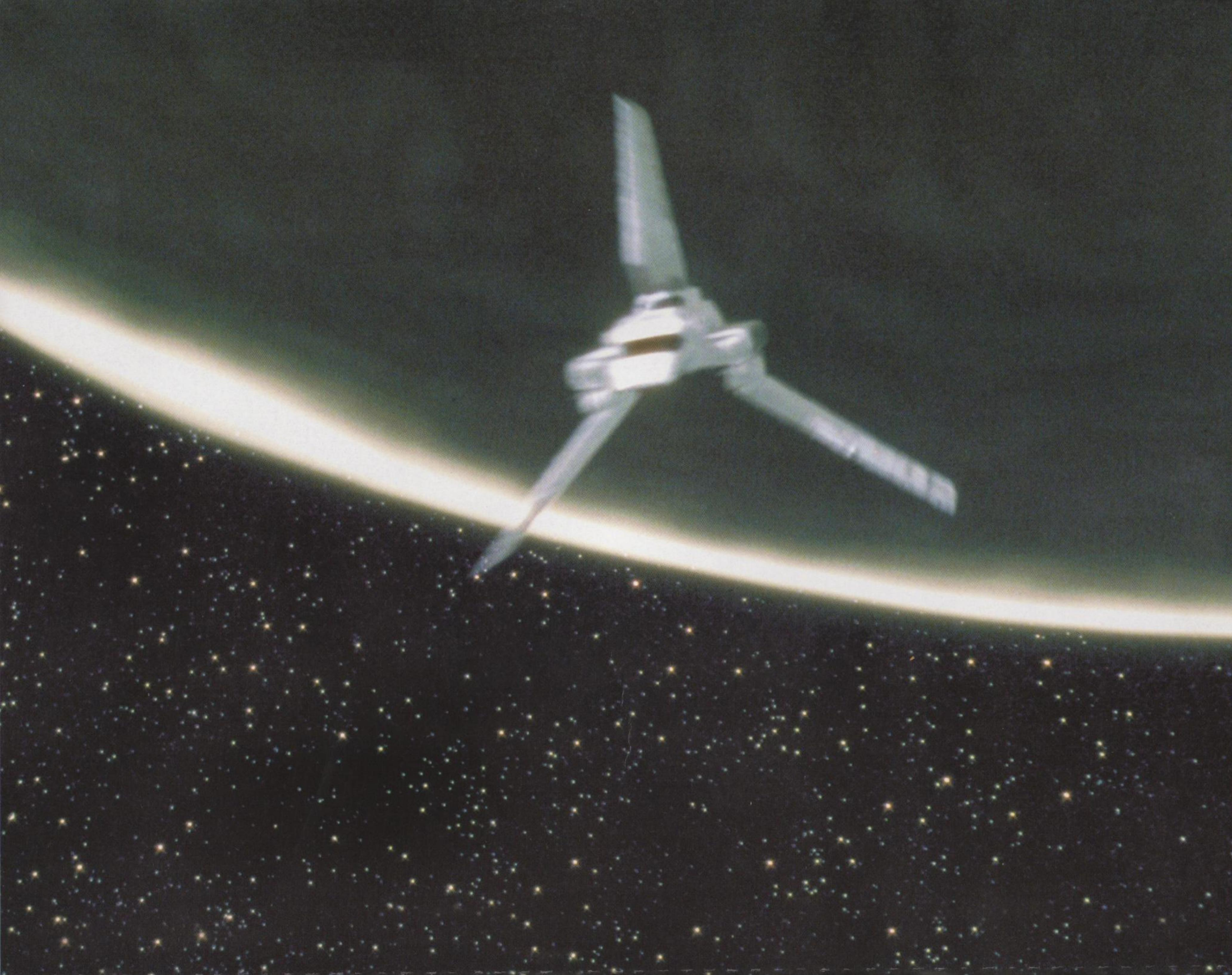














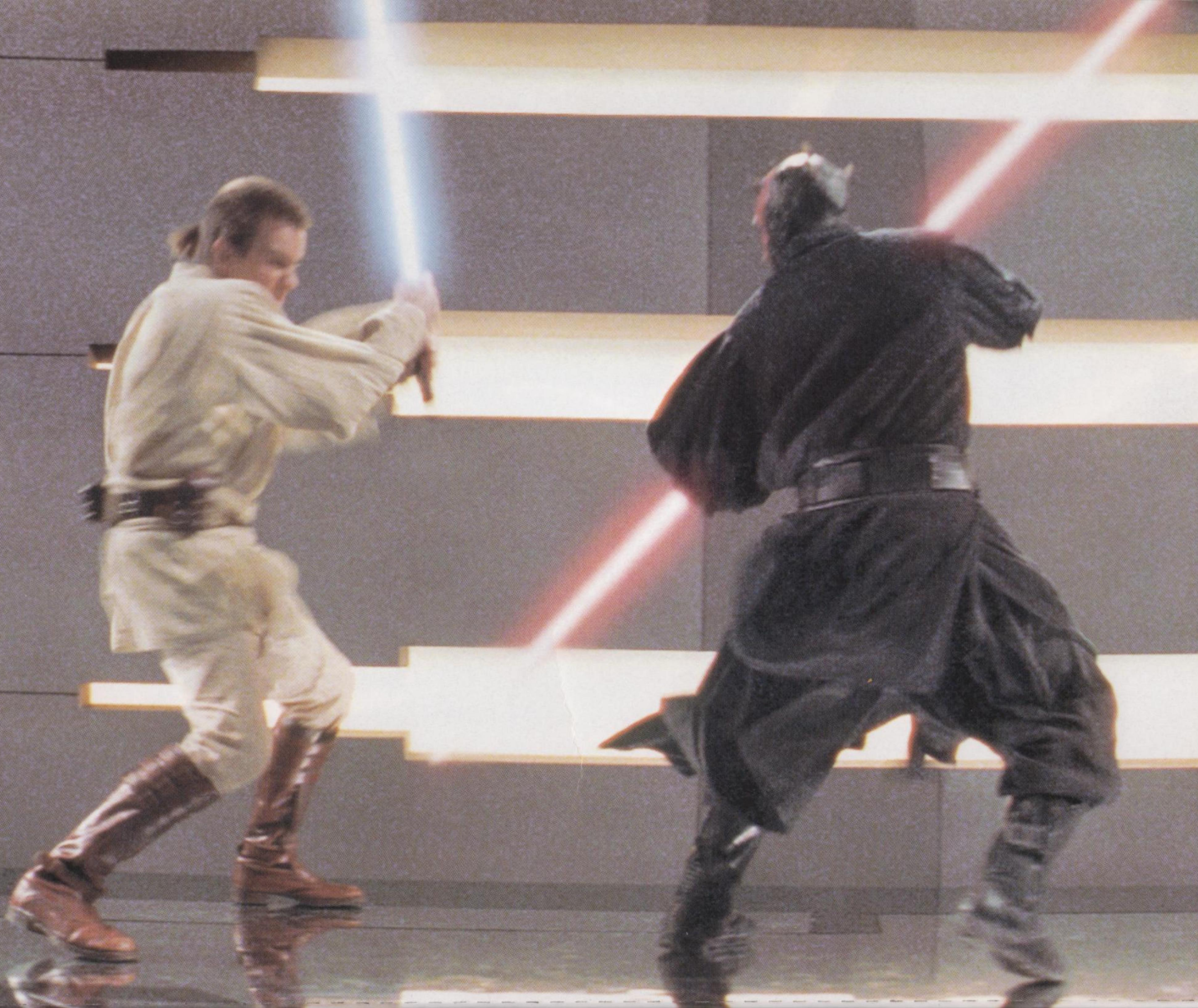


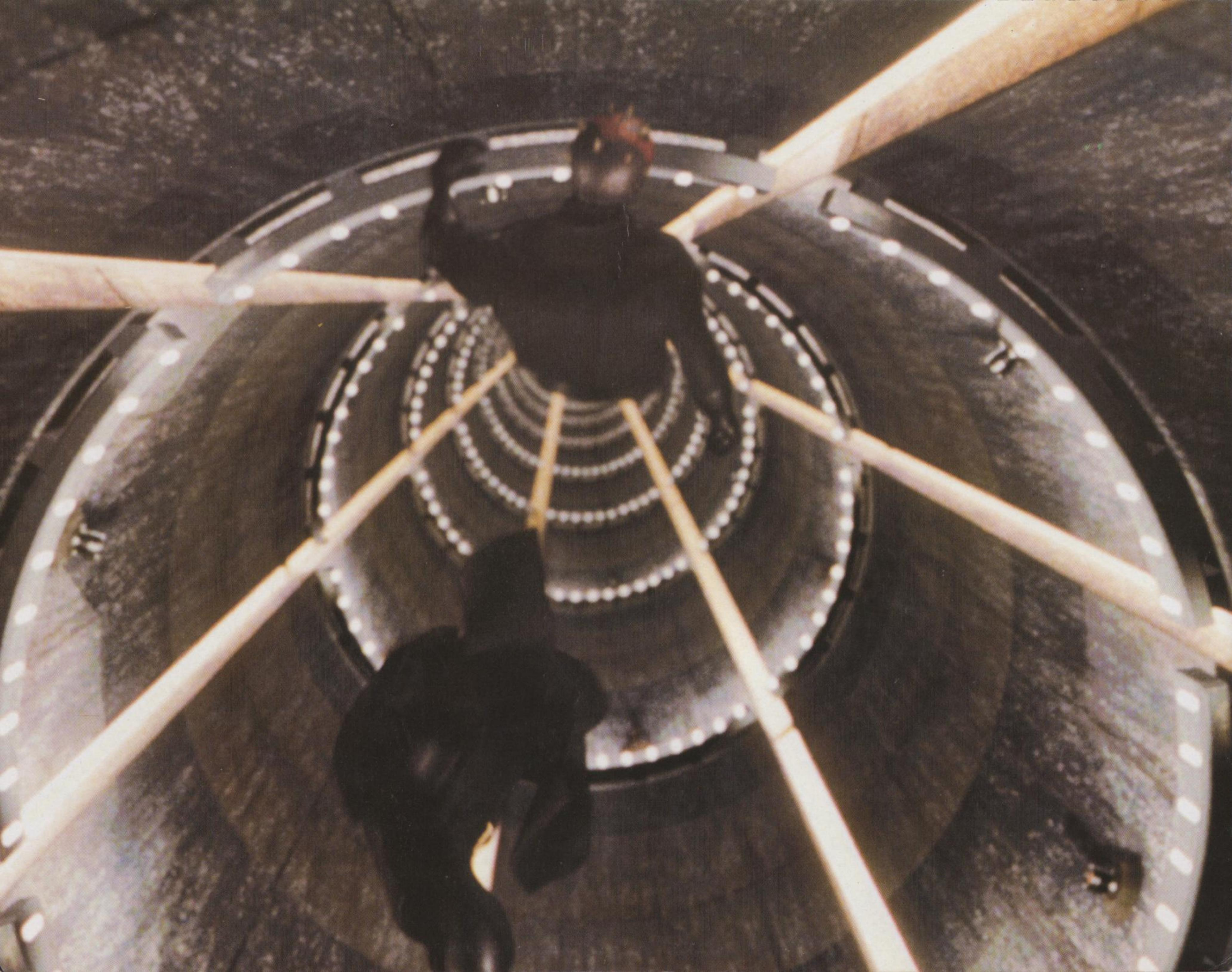












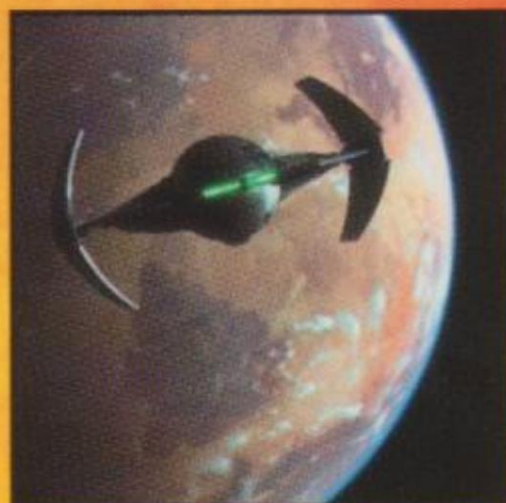
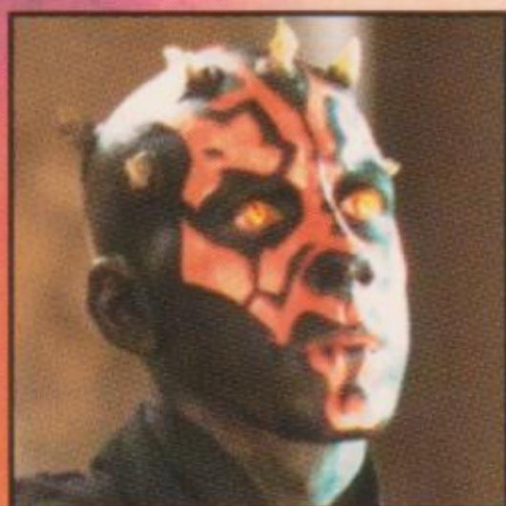
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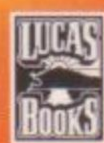
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